FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JULY 1984

Israel

Election Aftermath — With only the soldiers' votes to be counted on 26 July, the political "deadlock" resulting from the elections for the 11th Knesset has led the two major parties to woo the smaller parties, Jerusalem television reported. According to a television correspondent, the Labor Party is considering a national unity government in a "favorable light," although IDF radio pointed out that this does not appear to be a realistic possibility for the Alignment, which the Labor Party heads. The television correspondent added that Likud will be unable to establish a coalition without 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad Party, and the Alignment will be unable to do so without some of the religious parties. To this end, Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres conferred with National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg, and Labor's Yitzhaq Navon met with SHAS official 'Ovadya Yosef, the correspondent noted. Burg was also received by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on 25 July and both men expressed the hope that a national unity government will be formed, IDF radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, Yahad also reiterated its support of a national unity government, but stressed that if such a government cannot be formed it will support an "alternative government." Meanwhile, the Hadash Party spokesman emphasized that his party will oppose both a Likud government and a national unity government, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Progressive List for Peace leader Muhammad Mi'ari added in remarks broadcast by the radio's Arabic service that his group will never cooperate with the Likud or with the "racists and radicals."

Foreign Reaction — Reacting to the Israeli election results, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed the hope that the Israeli Government will have a positive vision of peace, and will move to solve the problems regarding Lebanon, the Palestinians, and the Tabah area, Cairo radio reported. Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali added that he hopes a new, strong government will be formed as soon as possible so peace negotiations can be started.

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' stated that the election results reflect the crisis Israel has been experiencing since its invasion of Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The Syrian paper *TISHRIN* added in a commentary cited by Damascus radio that there is no difference between the Likud and the Alignment on general policy, that they are "two faces of the same coin" with the common policy to usurp more Arab land and make Israel the "main instrument for implementing U.S. policy in the region."

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri also asserted in a statement to WAKH that the two major parties are basically the same. He said the results reveal an "acute split" in Israeli society. An Amman radio commentary stated that in the wake of the elections, peace has become "more unattainable than ever before."

A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary warned that the election results indicate that Israel cannot free itself from its critical situation without resorting to its "traditional option," war. Hopes of reaching a "certain settlement" with the Labor Party have faded, although it was always considered that the assumption of power in Israel of any party would be the same. PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi stated that the results underline the magnitude of the acute crises and difficulties afflicting Israel, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Foreign Currency Tax — Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad announced a 15-percent value added tax onthe purchase of foreign currency for the travel allowance and on the import of services from abroad, ITIM reported. These and other regulations concerning foreign currency supervision will apply for an interim period of 3 months, the minister added, and are aimed at stemming the "panic and unjustified premonitions" regarding devaluations of currency.

Lebanon

Closure of Israeli Mission — Israel has closed its liaison office in Ad-Dubayyah and the Israeli officials working there were flown home early on 25 July, Jerusalem radio announced. The decision was taken earlier this week by Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens after the Lebanese Government resolved to withdraw protection for the office. The Lebanese guards were withdrawn from the building on 24 July, the radio noted.

Commenting on the implications of the closure of Israel's mission, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio stressed that Israel will remain as free as ever to safeguard its security interests and its northern border and that it will maintain contacts with its numerous friends in Lebanon. The spokesman contended that the Lebanese Government's recent moves are against Lebanon's interests and will cause harm and suffering to the Lebanese people. Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, told the radio that Lebanese-Israeli coordination and contacts will henceforth be more difficult, adding that under present circumstances "we will maintain our contacts only in southern Lebanon." As for the effects on trade, Lubrani pointed out that licenses for passage into southern Lebanon will no longer be obtainable in Beirut, thus presenting merchants with a "very difficult problem"

Karami Tour — Prime Minister Rashid Karami will leave for Damascus on 26 July at the start of an Arab tour including a visit to Saudi Arabia to discuss economic assistance, Beirut radio reported. In his talks with the Syrians, Karami will review the internal security situation and will seek Syrian backing for a security plan for northern Lebanon, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

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'Arafat To Arrive in Amman 'Next Week'

JN250936 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jul 84 pp 1, 24

[Excerpt] Amman — It has been learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman next week to sponsor celebrations of Palestinian cultural heritage.

He will also hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials within the framework of coordination and consultation on developments in the Palestinian cause and events in the occupied homeland, particularly in wake of the Israeli elections.

Reportage on Reaction to Israeli Elections

Qaddumi, Al-Hasan on Elections

JN242150 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2040 GMT 24 Jul 84

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Israeli parliamentary elections, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, expressed his belief that the results underline the magnitude of the acute crises and difficulties afflicting Israel.

He added that these results are evidence of the Israeli voters' division and bewilderment.

Khalid al-Hasan, who attended the congress of the Palestinian community in Brazil, visited Paris today, where he met with Francis Gutman, secretary general of the French External Relations Ministry.

Antoine Abu Samrah seized the opportunity of the Palestinian official's presence in the French capital and asked his opinion about the results of the Israeli elections.

[Begin recording][Antoine Abu Samrah] Was the PLO surprised at the Labor Party's failure to win the elections as expected by all public opinion polls?

[Khalid al-Hasan] No, the failure to win the elctions did not surprise us.

The results came as we expected.

Moreover, the PLO did not pin any hope on the victory of either the Labor Party or the Likud, because both of them proceed from Zionist principles that lead to one policy toward the Middle East conflict and Palestinian national rights.

[Abu Samrah] There is an impression in some Arab capitals, particularly Cairo, that a weak Israeli Government may mean the final loss of the West Bank. What is your opinion?

[Al-Hasan] It may also mean further fragmentation in the Zionist entity. [end recording]

Hani al-Hasan on Elections

JN251008 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jul 84 pp 1, 23

[Yusuf al-'Absi's dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, has said that the Israeli election results show that the fascist Torah Likud Party controls the Israelis and that the Labor Party has retreated.

In an exclusive statement to *AR-RA'Y*, Al-Hasan added: The useful lesson of this phenomenon is that the majority of Israelis are represented by the trend which is hostile to peace and that the fascist Torah Israeli arrogance can be stopped through a costly armed confrontation. When they [Israelis] paid a dear price in Lebanon, and when Beirut stood fast, they demonstrated and called for peace.

Al-Hasan said: The return of the Likud is the return to the logic of war. We all must prepare for large-scale military adventures the Israelis might carry out. He said that all Arabs must be equal to the historic stage in order to prepare themselves for confrontation and to abandon imagining about a peace that will not be achieved.

Al-Hasan added: The distribution of seats affirms that even if the Labor Party is able to form the government, it will only be able to do so through a compromise solution that would compromise the political line Peres proposed.

Concluding, Al-Hasan said: Jordan and the PLO must study what has happened and begin serious and patient talks in order to solidify a unified concept of the future confrontation on the political and military levels and propsoe it to the Arabs in order to turn it into a unified Arab plan.

Voice of PLO Comment

JN242004 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1623 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The final results of the Israeli elections were announced today, but did not surprise us because they showed an equal or near equal number of seats for the two major rival political parties — the Labor alignment and the Likud bloc. These were the results, regardless of Shamir's boasting of a Likud victory in the elections.

Naturally, what matters is not terrorist Shamir's moral evaluation of the election results, but what must take place following these results and the impasse that the enemy is currently facing, particularly its rival political parties. The failure of both the Labor and the Likud Parties in obtaining a parliamentary majority — 60 seats — to form a new government without a coalition means that forming a new government will be impossible without resorting to a larger coalition that includes the two major parties. This means that the small extremist religious political parties will play the same role again.

At any rate, the equal or near equal results simply reveal the gravity of the dilemma which the enemy's community faces on the various levels, particularly in the economic field. These results affirm that the Zionist settlers have lost or almost lost confidence in their major political parties and their ability to rescue them from their historical predicament and various strangling crises — at the top of which is the economic crisis — particularly since those who participated in the elections from those entitled to vote did not exceed 45 percent. Thus, the results of the 11th Knesset elections, which were described by political observers as the worst election ever witnessed by Israel since its establishment, are strongly contributing to the enemy's deteriorating situation and indicate that the enemy cannot free itself from this critical situation without resorting to its traditional option, namely, escaping to war.

Any new Israeli Government will be a coalition government, as we have said before, and the small extremist religious parties will have a key role in defining this government's political trends. These parties prefer to ally themselves to the Likud due to its deep commitment to their political and intellectual views. This means that the possibility of the Likud's return to power through a new coalition is taken into account.

At any rate, what is important now is the possibility of the enemy resorting to its traditional option, which is escaping to war. This matter is not only related to the enemy's programs and political views, but also to the situation in the region, particularly since the situation in the Arab region is greatly deteriorating and the balance of power is obviously in the enemy's favor.

Therefore, in case the enemy resorts to its traditional option, will we give it the opportunity to wage an easy war against any Arab front so as to harvest its fruits quickly in order to be able to deal with its internal problems temporarily?

This is the question that needs to be raised now and the thing to which the Arab countries must carefully take heed. The situation now requires careful scrutiny of the Israeli election results and their implications in order to understand the nature and basic responsibilities of the forthcoming phase so as to be able to face them.

Briefly, the hopes pinned on the possibility of reaching a certain settlement with the Zionist Labor Party have thus faded away. If, presumably, the Labor Party was able to form the Israeli Government, it could not form it without the help of the other small extremist parties, which have their own conditions that can change a lot of the Labor Party's policy that seeks a certainly unjust settlement.

Regarding our Palestinian arena, all the Palestinian groups who have been and are still objecting to some Arab relations of the PLO, which they claim may lead to a move toward a future settlement with the Zionist Labor Party, should realize the significance of the equal or semi-equal results of the Israeli elections and be alert regarding the nature of the impending danger. This is essential for these groups so they will be able to perform their national responsibilities during the current stage — foremost of which is holding a PNC session as soon as possible.

All justifications and illusions have failed. We have always considered the assumption of power in Tel Aviv by either the Labor or the Likud Parties as being the same. This is because the struggle agaisnt the enemy is continuing. What is important is that this struggle should be pursued while we are strongly united and organized.

AFP Reports Arab Reaction

NC241607 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Beirut, July 24 (AFP) — Arab countries are not unhappy with the Israeli Labour Party's disappointing showing in yesterday's general elections.

Neither the ruling Likud Party or the opposition Labour Party managed to get an absolute majority in the Knesset (Parliament), although Labour reportedly has seven or eight more seats.

Lebanese officials have not commented publicly on the elections, but privately concede that negotiations over the Israelis leaving southern Lebanon with a Labour government would not be easier than with a Likud government.

The Labour Party pledged during the campaign that the Israeli Army would leave southern Lebanon within six to nine months of taking office, if certain security arrangements were guaranteed.

But Lebanese authorities consider the conditions to be unacceptable, and not unlike those pushed by the Likud government led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, reliable sources here said.

The Lebanese press today pointed out that Israel's policies would not change as a result of the elections.

The daily newspaper *AL-ANWAR*, which supports Christian President Amin al-Jumayyil, said conditions for negotiating with Tel Aviv would not differ under a Likud or Labour government.

The pro-Syrian Lebanese newspaper *ASH-SHARQ* called the two Israeli parties "two sides of the same coin."

Syria and Jordan today said Israel was in an "institutional crisis" following the general elections, which stems from what they called Tel Aviv's "aggressive politics."

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that "the election results reflect the depth of the crisis Israel has undergone since it invaded Lebanon" in 1982.

Jordan's Information Minister Layla Sharaf said the Israeli elections "illustrate that the limbs of the Israeli body politic are falling apart because of its aggressive and annexational politics."

Although Jordan's King Husayn recently declared that a Labour victory would represent an Israeli "willingness to change," informed sources in Amman said today that the king "never really believed it."

The Labour Party's proposal for eventually opening negotiations on the basis of UN Resolution 242 could "constitute a trap" for the Hashemite king, a reliable source said.

Egypt's new Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid — while not anticipating the final results in the Israeli elections — said he hoped the new Israeli Government would have "a positive conception" of the Middle East peace process. The new Israeli Government should "urgently take necessary steps to end Israeli occupation of (southern) Lebanon and of other Arab countries," he said in a communique.

Popular Struggle Front Member Attacks 'Arafat

NC241815 (Clandestine) Palestinian Voice of National Unity in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] On the occasion of the anniversary of the [Egyptian] 23 July revolution, the Arab Socialist Union held a seminar in the town of Sa'd Nayil in Lebanon's Al-Biqa'. Representatives of the Palestinian resistance, the nationalist parties, and the Arab Socialist Union spoke during the seminar. The speakers called for the establishment of a broad national front to confront the Phalangist hegemonistic scheme, to build an Arab democratic Lebanon, to consolidate the strategic alliance among Syria, the Palestinian resistance, and nationalist forces in the Arab area, and to confront the Zionist occupation in our occupied land.

Speaking on behalf of the Palestinian revolution, Comrade Abu 'Adwa, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Struggle Front, said: Today, we celebrate the glorious revolution of 'Abd an-Nasir that supported the Algerian and the Yemeni revolutions — the revolution of 'Abd an-Nasir who said that the Palestinian resistance was the most noble phenomenon to emerge in the wake of the 1967 war.

Comrade Abu 'Adwa then spoke about the change As-Sadat made following the departure of 'Abd an-Nasir and how As-Sadat changed the bastion of steadfastness into a cell for subservience and for treason against the people of Egypt and the Arab nation. He said: As-Sadat bound Egypt with the bonds of Camp David — the bonds of subservience to U.S. imperialism and, therefore, he was destined to die. Then came Mubarak's rule which continues to shackle Egypt with the chains of Camp David. However, the Egyptian people will destroy the chains and bonds of Camp David and will restore to Egypt its national and leading role.

Comrade 'Adwa said: After our exit from Beirut, the Palestinian resistance faced and it continues to face three [word indistinct]. These are: the military war, the political war, and the arbitrary war. He said the enemy believed that the Palestinian resistance was finished and aborted following its exit from Beirut and that the military battle was over.

They launched a political war against us and put forward the Reagan plan, the Fes plan, and then the confederation plan. The aim behind these plans was to make the resistance negotiate with the Zionist enemy. They launched a psychological war because they wanted to [word indistinct] our people and fighters. Our response was: Should despair enter our hearts, we would spread terror in this world, because this world understands the rights of the displaced and deprived people only through the whistle of bullets.

Comrade 'Adwa then attacked [PLO Chairman] 'Arafat, accusing him of betraying the Palestinian people by placing all the cards of the Palestinian issue in the American basket.

PFLP-DFLP Official Denies Report on Summit

GF241822 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 24 Jul 84 pp 1, 14

["Exclusive" report from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the PFLP-DFLP joint leadership, denied yesterday the news report stating that the Fatah Central Committee has agreed with the Democratic Alliance to hold a Palestinian summit in Algiers on Saturday, with the participation of Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, Tal'at Ya'qub, and Sulayman al-Najjab, the secretaries general of the four factions of the Democratic Alliance.

In a telephone conversation with *AL-KHALIJ*, Abu Sharif affirmed the adherence of the Democratic Alliance, which includes the PFLP, DFLP, Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party, to the Aden agreement which safeguards the PLO's unity, prevents the undermining of Palestinian national rights, puts the Palestinian revolution in a position to confront all the capitulatory solutions, and establishes its role of confronting the Zionist enemy and U.S. policy through its alliance with Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces.

Democratic Alliance Criticizes Al-Hasan

JN241316 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The first reaction to Hani al-Hasan's statements yesterday came from the Palestinian Democratic Alliance.

A responsible source in the alliance stated that, for the second time in 2 weeks, Hani al-Hasan made political statements that go beyond the agreement concluded in Algeria. Therefore, his statements completely contradict the letter and spirit of the Aden agreement.

Hani al-Hasan said in an interview with the *JORDAN TIMES* that the PLO and Jordan are nearing a framework for defining confederal relations and that the political viewpoints of the PLO and Amman are now closer than ever.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Message From Sudan's Numaryri

GF241835 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Manama, 24 Jul (WAKH) — H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Ibn Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri dealing with bilateral relations and current developments in Sudan. The message was delivered by Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu.

In a statement following the meeting Mr 'Ali Shammu said that H.H. the amir of Bahrain had expressed his understanding of the contents of the Sudanese president's message and had given his comments relating to them. The Sudanese minister said that he would convey Shaykh 'Isa's views to President Numayri. Mr 'Ali Shammu added that H.H. the amir of Bahrain understood the situation in Sudan in the light of its role as an Arab country which was important to Afro-Arab relations.

The meeting was attended by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad. The meeting was also attended by the accompanying Sudanese delegation which included Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman, Minister of Islamic Affairs and Endowments Dr Yusif Abu Bakr, and Sudanese Ambassador to Bahrain Muhammad 'Abd al-Fatah.

Briefs

Saudi-Financed Desalination Plant — Manama, 24 Jul (WAKH) — An agreement to establish a Saudi financed desalination plant in southern Bahrain was signed in Manama Tuesday. The agreement was signed by Saudi Agriculture and Water Minister 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Shaykh and representatives of the British-Korean (word U phonetic) company which is undertaking the project. Bahraini Minister of Public Works, Electricity, and Water Majid al-Jishi stressed the importance of this project and said it would further satisfy the islands future requirements of water. This Saudi-funded project will meet nearly 22 percent of Bahrain's needs of drinking water till 1987, Al-Jishi said. This 172 million Saudi riyal desalination plant is expected to be completed after 26 months with a daily capacity of 10 million gallons of water desalination by the reverse osmosis process. [Excerpts] [Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 84 GF]

KUWAIT

Amir Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

LD241057 Kuwait KUNA in English 1023 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA) H.H. the ruler of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah received here Tuesday a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was delivered to the Kuwaiti ruler by the Libyan ambassador to Kuwait.

SAUDI ARABIA

Visit of ROK Deputy Defense Minister Reported

LD241321 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] At-Ta'if, July 24, SPA — The visiting South Korean Deputy Defence Minister Kwon Yong-kak met here today with Prince Sultan, the Saudi second deputy premier and defence and aviation minister. The meeting was attended by 'Uthmab al-Humayd, assistant defence minister for military affairs and South Korean ambassador to Saudi Arabia Choe Kwang-su. They exchanged cordial talks and token gifts. Later, the South Korean official visited the Maintenance Corps School and its various workshops.

Later, Kwon met with Deputy Defence Minister Prince 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The meeting was attended by Al-Humayd and Choe. They exchanged cordial talks and token gifts.

King Greets Mubarak on Egyptian National Day

GF241927 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has sent a congratulatory cable to Egyptian President His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the anniversary of the national day of the Arab Republic of Egypt. His Majesty expressed on the behalf of the Saudi Government and people and on his own behalf his best congratulations and wishes for his excellency for good health and for the fraternal Egyptian people to achieve continued progress and constant prosperity.

AL-NADWAH Cited on Israeli Election

LD241356 Riyadh SPA in English 1230 GMT 24 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The Mecca-based *AL-NADWAH* warned the Arabs not to be deceived by the farce of Israel's elections and pin hopes on the Israeli Labour Party's victory because the two major parties had the same ideologies and strategies regardless of differences in their approaches and styles. It said the two parties, Likud and Labour, were competing fiercely to achieve supreme interests of their country and that the Arabs should not bother themselves with the outcome of elections because it will not change drastically their stand on the Arab-Israel conflict.

The paper added that difference between the Arab and Israelis was that the Zionists would always take the reins of matters in their hand whenever they feel it suitable for them while the Arabs are merely contented with late reactions without any collective action.

UAE

AL-WAHDAH on Israeli Elections, Southern Lebanon

GF250932 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0725 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jul (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* has talked about the relationship between the Israeli elections and occupied southern Lebanon. The paper expected that the new government of the Israeli enemy will exploit the security situation in southern Lebanon "through executing a sudden Israeli withdrawal thus paving the way for battles and bloody discords among the various sects there, foremost of which is the surrogate army of Lahd, and thus all the Lebanese national efforts exerted to attain unity will be wasted." The paper added: "This stems from the position of the Zionist entity which is well known to be antagonistic to the Arab nation and to the unity of the joint strategic goals of the two competing Israeli parties."

The paper continued: "The goal is to impose direct Zionist coerciveness on southern Lebanon to be safe from the Lebanese nationalist resistance which robs the sleep of the Zionist entity."

The paper stressed that the security of southern Lebanon is an inseparable part. Moreover, being satisfied only with ensuring the security in the capital — which reflects indifference — and leaving southern Lebanon without any coverage — that ensures maintaining it free from being subdued or subjected to any Israeli influence — is a matter that gravely menaces this Arab country.

Concluding editorially, *AL-WAHDAH* called on the Lebanese Government to immediately resort to protecting southern Lebanon by bracing forces of the Lebanese Army to shoulder their responsibility of preserving security and stability. The paper also urged the Karami government to hastily get ready to tackle matters that might happen and to nip them in the bud since "security in all of Lebanon is inseparable and the security of the south is part of the security of the capital."

PDRY

YSP-Syrian Ba'th Party Officials Hold Talks

GF241708 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The second round of talks between the YSP delegation led by Brother Abu Bakr 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led by Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Party in Syria, began at the headquarters of the YSP Central Committee Secretariat this morning. During this round, Brother Ba Dhib referred to the various developments achieved in the PDRY.

Regarding developments in the Arab region, Brother Ba Dhib affirmed the PDRY's stance of standing alongside fraternal Syria in its confronting the continued threats resulting from the hostility of the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. He said that Syria is the center of Arab steadfastness and struggle against the capitulatory and conspiratorial plans in the region, such as the Camp David accord and the Reagan plan.

He praised its role in supporting the struggle of the Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces within the framework of the Arab liberation struggle. He also affirmed the importance of developing and strengthening the struggle alliance of Syria, the Lebanese nationalist forces, and the Palestinian resistance. He referred to the PDRY's stance toward the developments in the Palestinian arena and affirmed the importance of supporting all the efforts which are being exerted to maintain the PLO's unity on the basis of its national line which is opposing imperialism and Zionism and which has been defined by the resolutions of the PNC sessions, particularly the 16th session. He called for continuing to confront all threats to the Palestinian liberation struggle and to overcoming current difficulties. He also affirmed the PDRY's principled and firm stance toward the various Arab nationalist liberation movements.

During this round of talks, Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar expressed his appreciation for the nationalist and democratic accomplishments achieved in the PDRY, his pride in the struggle of the Yemeni masses to construct a new progressive society, and his support for the efforts being exerted to reunite the two parts of the Yemeni homeland. Brother 'Abdallah al-Ahmar expressed his total satisfaction with the similarity in the two parties' evaluation of developments in the situation in the Arab and international arenas and the substantial similarity of their stances toward the most significant and fateful issues of the Arab nation. He affirmed the importance of exerting joint efforts to strengthen the Arab struggle against the Camp David accord and the Reagan plan and to revive all nationalist powers to struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionarism. He also affirmed the vital importance of developing the various fields of cooperation between the two countries and to take practical steps in this direction.

Delegations Resume Talks

JN241820 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The second round of talks was held in Aden today between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation under Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, and the YSP delegation under Comrade Abu Bakr Bazayd, YSP Politburo member and YSP Central Committee secretary. They completed the party and political talks.

Comrade al-Ahmar reiterated Syria's principled stands on all issues, especially the situation in the Palestinian arena and the Iraqi-Iranian war. Comrade Bazayd reconfirmed the PDRY's stand in support of Syria in its confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist schemes and threats. He praised Syria's militant stands and prominent and distinguished role in confronting all capitulatory plans.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Egyptian-Soviet Ties

PM241853 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 21 Jul 84 p 3

[Interview with Dr Usamah al-Baz, Director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, by Sana' as-Sa'id — date not given]

[Text] As-Sa'id: Could the announcement of the exchange of ambassadors between you and the Soviet Union be just a first step toward further consolidation of Egyptian-Soviet relations with a view to reviving the bilateral friendship and cooperation treaty abrogated in 1976?

Al-Baz: The agreement announced was for the return of ambassadors to the two capitals. It was not an announcement of agreement to exchange ambassadors because the exchange of ambassadors was agreed upon many years ago. This step should be seen as such, no more and no less. It should not be exaggerated. It is a step to restore normal relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union — relations not characterized by tension. This step does not in any way mean special relations with the Soviet Union. In our estimation and calculation it is not meant to lead to other stages beyond normal and ordinary relations. We assess our relations with the Soviet Union on the same basis we assess our relations with other states. Our willingness to improve relations is always contingent and conditional upon the other side's willingness to do the same, on the basis of mutual interests, noninterference in Egyptian affairs, and the absence, at the international level, of actions harmful to Egypt's national interests.

As-Sa'id: Are you certain that this present step does not point to a gradual shift toward the Soviets, particularly since U.S. policy in the region has become bankrupt and has produced little?

Al-Baz: It is wrong and completely out of touch with reality to imagine that what we have done is a step in a gradual slide towards the Soviet Union. It is pretty naive to view relations between states on the assumption that improvement of relations with one state is bound to be at the expense of another, or that I equate my relations with the Soviet Union with my relations with the United States. Such an interpretation is meaningless and only denotes ignorance. The truth is that I do not oscillate. There is no room for the revival of the idea or concept which prevailed in the fifties and sixties, that is, the concept of playing one state against another. That is a naive concept. You cannot use it against states. They are superpowers and they have their own strategic interests and tactics in many parts of the world if not all of it. That is what distinguishes these two giants from the other big powers. That is why, in dealing with these two states, we cannot make our relations with one contingent upon our relations with the other. I assess my relations with the Soviet Union in isolation from my relations with the United States but I do not drift in my relations with either of the two because drifting toward special relations with any foreign state is a very risky matter and we should be quite aware of that. It is up to me to determine the extent of my relations with any state.

As-Sa'id: But the superpowers may seek more than just normal relations.

Al-Baz: The superpowers may try to drag and pull me beyond that point but it is always up to me because relations can only be established within the limits agreed by both sides, in other words, limits satisfactory to both sides. In my relations with the Soviet Union or the United States I do not drift or slide. I always seek to develop my relations with all states, including the United States and the Soviet Union, within the limits which serve my objectives and which are not detrimental to Egypt's national interests. Here I do not equate my relations with the United States with my relations with the Soviet Union because the context is different in each case, although the criterion is the same, namely that I establish healthy and equal relations with any state willing to cooperate with us.

As-Sa'id: The restoration of relations with the Soviets means that, on the question of strategic balance between the superpowers, you no longer hold the view that there is a strategic imbalance in favor of the Soviet Union against the United States in the region. Is this true?

Al-Baz: It is completely untrue. The restoration of relations with the Soviet Union only means one thing: That I view my relations with the Soviet Union within the context of my overall outlook to the world as a whole. I see it as an international power with whom there is no reason I should not have healthy relations or relations of cooperation regardless of its political and social systems provided these systems do not cause any harm I am unwilling to accept.

As-Sa'id: So on what basis do you form your concept of international conflict?

Al-Baz: Our concept is derived from the philosophy of nonalignment. We believe that, apart from the conflict between the two giants, there are many other conflicts in the world. There is a conflict between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, between the North and the South, between the rich and the poor, and between the aligned and nonaligned states. Our aim is to contain all these conflicts because we do not want world wars, regional local wars, or economic wars which the North may launch against the South or the South may launch against the North in protest against many years of exploitation. Furthermore, we believe that tackling these conflicts with more tension and confrontation would not produce the desired results but exactly the opposite.

As-Sa'id: Has the Soviet threat to the region, which the Reagan administration once spoke of and listed as a top priority issue in the region, disappeared?

Al-Baz: Threat to whom?

As-Sa'id: To the region. The U.S. Administration underlined it and former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig spoke of it on his first visit to the region.

Al-Baz: Alexander Haig can say what he likes but we do not at all view any state in particular as being a threat to us. Policies, not states, are what constitutes a threat to us. For example, we cannot say that Iran is an Islamic state having spiritual ties with all the Arab states. Quite the opposite.

As-Sa'id: Does it not pose a threat to the Gulf states?

Al-Baz: Not even to the Gulf states because Iran is supposed to be a strategic depth for all of us because as a society it is close to us. It is a nonaligned, Islamic and developing nation and similar to us in many ways.

As-Sa'id: Does this apply even with the Iraq-Iran war still raging?

Al-Baz: The current war is a reflection of a temporary danger emanating from certain policies related to border disputes, ambitions beyond the borders, and ideas of spreading certain creeds or faiths. I am not referring to the Shi'ite faith. I am referring to an ideology which the regime wants to spread beyond the borders even if it meant imposing it by force on a certain area. This is only a temporary threat but it does not mean that I regard the state itself as being a threat to the region.

As-Sa'id: If this is true of Iran, can it also be true of the Soviet Union?

Al-Baz: It is even more true of the Soviet Union because I am not the party in confrontation or in competition with it. The United States is the rival, and the competition between them is sharp and violent. At any rate, balances between states change and differ. In the forties the United States did not regard the Soviet Union as a strategic threat to it. In fact they were allies and they fought the Axis as allies. Then the conflict theories followed in the fifties and the conflict deepened in the sixties with the rivalry in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. It was then that the threat of one to the other become more apparent. But we are not a part of that game. I am not a member of a U.S. or a Soviet alliance and I am not against either of the two. I am against any foreign detriment to Egyptian or Arab strategic interests because this is my area. I am against any desire of any state, whether it is the United States, the Soviet Union, or any other state, to overturn our region which includes Egypt, the Arab world, and the nonaligned Afro-Asian states. So if any state tries to polarize the region, create spheres of influence, or cause tensions that lead to local wars, then I must oppose such attempts because they pose a threat to me, my strategic security, my national interests, and the interests of the states in the region which have the same interests.

As-Sa'id: The superpowers have ambitions and this fact reflects on their conflict in the region. How can we resist these ambitions?

Al-Baz: Not by joining in crusades against this or that state. The superpowers are themselves in conflict and they see other areas in the world as arenas for their conflict and related operations, but we must not become an instrument in the superpower conflict and competition game. We must safeguard our national interests as a whole. The main point is that I shall never become a part of the superpower game. I should regard these states as foreign with not enough common grounds between us and them to make me accept that my interests are linked to theirs. There can only be a degree of cooperation with them provided that such cooperation is within the limits which I believe serve my interests and which do not reach the point where the presence of these foreign states can become a threat to the interests of the people in the region.

As-Sa'id: What is likely to follow the normalization step with the Soviets? Could the Soviet Union possibly be given the same treatment as the United States when it comes to the question of military facilities?

Al-Baz: We grant the Soviet Union no military facilities whatsoever. We do not give anyone else military facilities on Egyptian territory. Nobody has military bases in Egypt. We insist on nonalignment and we treat our relations with other states accordingly, but that does not mean that my relations with the Soviet Union are going to be equal to my relations with the United States. There is no geometrical equality in relations. The equality only lies in the principles on which I assess my relations. On that basis I say that relations differ. In fact, my relations with France may be stronger than my relations with the United States or the Soviet Union because the circumstances of my dealing with it assure me of more cooperation. I assess the matter on the same basis in that France is not an Arab, Islamic, African, or nonaligned state but the strength of my relations with it emerges because there are common grounds for cooperation with it or because the risks inherent in my relations with it are less than the risks in relations with other states. This is what makes cooperation greater and wider.

As-Sa'id: That means that your relations with the Soviet Union will never be the same as your relations with the United States?

Al-Baz: There should be nothing in the game to denote that my relations with the Soviet Union should be geometrically or mathematically equal to my relations with the United States because my cooperation with the United States — whether in the industrial field, military field, or the field of other aid — may be stronger. This, however, should not prevent me from developing my trade and other aspects with the Soviet Union within limits that are not harmful to my interests. Nobody should think that I maintain some kind of perfect balance in my relations with other states. Equality here is confined to the principles which govern these relations but it does not cover the extent, size, or quality of cooperation.

'Abd al-Majid, Ghali Comment on Israeli Elections

NC241814 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid commented on the results of the Israeli elections, saying: I hope the Israeli Government will have a positive vision [tasawwurun] of the course of comprehensive peace in the area, which Egypt began 7 years ago.

'Abd al-Majid said the new Israeli Government has to deal with the situation on the basis that true and just peace is the people's best guarantee for life, stability, and prosperity. He said the Israeli Government should take quick steps to end the occupation of Arab territories — Lebanese territories in particular. It must negotiate to reach a just settlement in all aspects of the Palestinian issue, which will guarantee the Palestinian people's firm

national rights. It must also agree to abide by the peace treaty in resolving the border problem in the Tabah region.

The foreign minister said every missed opportunity and every minute that passes without a comprehensive and just settlement does not help us fulfill our responsibilities to the coming generations to achieve peace, security, and stability in the region and to promote the development process in the interest of the region's peoples.

On the other hand, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said Egypt is following the Israeli elections and hopes that a new, strong Israeli Government will be formed as soon as possible so that peace negotiations can be started.

Press Comments on Elections

NC250721 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 25 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-JUMHURIYAH* comments on the outcome of Israeli elections, saying the elections, on 23 July, might lead to the Likud forming a new government despite the fact the Labor opposition has won a few more parliamentary seats. The reason, the paper continues, is that religious and minor parties may side with Likud.

Thus, the paper says, Israel has performed the prerequisites for maintaining the image of democracy that it always boasts of. Israel has always claimed to be an oasis of democracy in the Middle East, the paper recalls, adding that nothing is further removed from democracy than Israeli claims. Democracy is an illusion in Israel, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says, because despite the fact that peace with the Arabs and Palestinians was a major issue in the debate between rival parties in Israel, peace was never in the platform of any Israeli party.

AL-AKHBAR's editorial, entitled: "The Significance of the Israeli Elections," comments on the same subject. *AL-AKHBAR* says that following the announcement of preliminary results of the Israeli elections, it has become evident that Israel is at the threshold of political disarray because voters did not settle the outcome to the benefit of either major parties. The paper points out that this period of political disarray will bear heavily on Israel, which is already suffering economically and stumbling on the road to peace.

AL-AKHBAR adds that there is further significance to the Israeli elections; namely, that many Israelis support extremist trends. The paper says this will make Shamir's task more difficult if he seeks to form a government with solid Knesset support. The paper warns that Shamir will not hesitate to form a government in collaboration with the ultra-right. This will lead to a Likud government which frowns even more than before on Palestinian rights — particularly when Shamir himself supports the call for annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip and considers them parts of Israel.

Iraqi Journalists Delegation Arrives in Cairo

NC241850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) — Husayn 'Ali Muhammad as-Samarra'i, chairman of the Iraqi Journalists Association's Foreign Relations Committee and INA deputy chief editor, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening on a 1-week visit to Egypt.

Nuclear Energy Agreement Signed With Belgium

NC241315 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) — Egypt and Belgium today signed a technical cooperation agreement on the peaceful use of nuclear energy which allows Egypt to obtain equipment to set up nuclear plants to generate electricity. The agreement was signed on the Egyptian side by Engineer Mahmud al-Mughrabi, chairman of the nuclear plants authority, and on the Belgian side by Ambassador Roger Prues.

Engineer Mahir Abazah, Minister of Electricity and Energy, who attended the signing ceremony, said that the agreement will also give Egypian engineers and technicians the opportunity to train in operation and maintenance work in Belgian nuclear energy plants. Eng Abazah added that the agreement also allows for cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for industrial, agricultural, and medical purposes. He pointed out that this agreement is the fifth one that Egypt has signed with a foreign country. It had earlier signed similar agreements with the United States, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Canada.

Concluding his statement, Eng Mahir Abazah stressed his ministry's commitment to implement the Egyptian nuclear program which includes the establishment of eight plants to generate electricity from nuclear energy by the year 2000 to provide 40 percent of Egypt's electricity needs.

Communique No 1,536 on 23-24 Jul Operations

JN241617 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,536 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 July 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Army units continued their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the criminal Iranian enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Using artillery and various other weapons, our forward units dealt concentrated and effective blows to several enemy targets opposite their positions in the operational area east of Basra, inflicting losses in men and equipment, and causing large fires and explosions in some positions and weapon emplacements. Elsewhere in the same sector, one heavy machine gun was destroyed and three enemy troops were killed.

2. One of our forward units fired on several enemy troops and positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing three, and destroying one vehicle and three infantry positions along with their occupants.

3. Two were killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 July 1984

Lebanese Official Arrives for Economic Talks

JN241232 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA) — Sami Marun, head of the Lebanese National Council for External Economic Relations, arrived here today. During his visit, which will last several days, the Lebanese official will hold talks with Iraqi officials on ways to strengthen economic cooperation in industry and trade.

Confers With Ramadan

JN241323 Bagdhad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today met with Sami Marun, head of the Lebanese National Council for External Economic Relations, who is currently visiting Iraq. Bilateral relations and ways to develop and expand them in the economic sphere were discussed.

Marun Leaves Baghdad 25 Jul

JN251003 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA) — Sami Marun, head of the Lebanese National Council for External Relations, left Baghdad at dawn today at the end of a 2-day vsiit to Iraq. During his visit Marun held talks with several Iraqi officials on ways to promote bilateral economic cooperation.

Leaders Assess Early Israeli Election Results

Foreign Minister Al-Masri

GF250640 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Amman, 24 Jul (WAKH) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has asserted that the two major parties in Israel are faces of the same coin particularly for the people in Jordan, whether the Likud or Labor wins these elections and forms the next Israeli Government.

In a statement to the WAKH correspondent in Amman, the Jordanian foreign minister said: The results of the 11th Knesset elections must be thoroughly studied. It seems to us that they will be a significant turning point in Israeli society. This acute split in Israeli society and struggles which have begun to appear from the results of these elections are a natural effect of the structure of Israeli society, which has been deeply rooted in extremism and aggressive expansion. The brutal acts which Israel has carried out and is continuing against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in Lebanon and in the occupied Arab territories are clear proof of the deep-rooted extremism and aggressive settlement expansion in the structure of Israeli society, he said.

The Jordanian foreign minister said: The epic of the coherent society which the Israeli leaders used to boast about to the world has undoubtedly been shaken. The rightist extremism and the increasing support for that, through numerous rightist parties which won, will increase the dispute within Israeli society. Moreover, the success of the terrorist Me'ir Kahana is proof to the Western world that terrorism is favored by many Israelis, particularly those who establish settlements in the occupied Arab territories. The Jordanian foreign minister said: Neither of the two main parties will be able to form a stable government in Israel.

He then referred to the importance of the Arab vote in the Israeli elections. He said: This vote has proven its importance but did not prove its cohesion. Had our brothers living in Israel succeeded in uniting their votes, they would have greater leverage in Israeli politics. But since this is the first time that the Arab votes were allowed to unite, I am confident that in any future elections the Arab vote will be decisive in correcting its course.

The Jordanian minister then talked about the Eastern Jews. He said: It seems from the preliminary results that the Eastern Jews maintained their firm contacts with the rightist parties and the extreme right, unlike what some sides had hoped regarding the moderation of the Eastern ranks.

Information Minister Sharaf

JN241255 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf has affirmed that the results of the Israeli elections reflected for the first time the confusion of the voter as well as of state policy in Israel.

It seems, she added, that Israel has begun to pay the price of its aggressive and expansionist policy through the disintegration of the very fabric of the Israeli political community.

Mrs Sharaf also affirmed that this situation is the result of the economic crisis stemming from the occupation of Lebanon, the building of settlements in the occupied territories, the loss of life sustained by Israel in Lebanon, the failure to achieve any clear military or political gains in this war, and Israel's incompatibility with the environment in which it exists and which has rejected it.

The Jordanian minister said that all these factors have had their impact on Israeli society, destroying the Israeli citizen's self-confidence and putting a big question mark on the results of Israel's policy of expansion and aggression.

Dailies View Results of Israeli Elections

JN250956 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Victory of Terrorism and Rancor," *AR-RA'Y* says: The final results of the Israeli elections confirm yet again that the Zionist entity in the occupied Arab territories is based on terrorism, and that the mad ideology of this entity is represented by murder, expansion, and rancor. As expected, neither of the two major parties won sufficient seats to form a new government, and their failure to do so is in the interest of the Israeli religious parties. It is difficult to consider these religious parties as political ones, because their courses and objectives provide them with all the qualities of terrorist networks. Unfortunately, these networks will now be in a position to determine the march of the Zionist entity toward more murder, expansion, and rancor.

AR-RA'Y continues: We have always believed that differences among Israeli parties are only differences in implementation, and that none of these parties would allow even a minimum level of differences regarding the general policy and racist and barbaric objectives of Zionism. We believed that the success of either the Likud or Labor parties would expose the terrorist ideology of world Zionism and its military tool, Israel. In fact, the election results did expose this terrorist ideology, because the success of a terrorist such as Kahana in winning a seat in the Knesset proves that organized crime governs the Zionist entity. There is no difference between this success and that of a professional and condemned killer winning a seat in the British House of Commons or the U.S. Congress, for example.

Concluding, *AR-RA'Y* says: Still we must point out that the results of the Israeli elections place us as a nation before the reality of the fateful conflict in this region. It is a conflict of survival that must be decided by one side achieving final victory over the other. This election result provides the world with more facts about an entity that is based on expansion, murder, and terrorism — an entity that recognizes no values and principles, and yet calls for peace and stability. Moreover, and this is the most important point, this entity is intent on destroying the region. This entity would also destroy the world with its rancors

and all its means of support and superiority from international parties that are not governed by conscience, ethics, or noble human feelings.

Under the headline "Extremism Is the Master of the Situation", *AD-DUSTUR* says: The results of the general elections in Israel have foiled all past wagers on creating a new situation that would allow a reactivation of peace prospects in the region and a renewal of efforts to reach a solution to the crisis. These elections have created a fragmented situation, unprecedented in the Hebrew state. The preliminary results of the Israeli elections indicate that it will be difficult for either the Likud or Labor Alignment to form a stable government after one-third of the 11th Knesset's seats have been distributed among 13 political parties. Some of these parties support the Likud's extremism toward the future of the occupied Arab territories, while others support the Labor Alignment concerning many issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

AD-DUSTUR stresses that in light of such an uncertain political situation that will dominate political life in Israel for an unknown period of time, the leaders of the most extremist Zionist parties which are very hostile to the Arabs, are expected to control the internal political game in Israel. This will further aggravate the serious situation in the region. It will also leave the door wide open for all possibilities, including the eruption of a new war, and the creation of a more serious state of hostility, tension, and instability in the region. The results of these elections and the fragmentation that they reflect — a fragmentation that has characterized political life in Israel since its establishment — indicates the severity of the Israeli society's impasse after all the useless wars that Israel waged and the effect of all the policies adopted by successive leaders without achieving firm and positive results.

AD-DUSTUR continues: Thus, the results of these elections is a natural outcome of the policies of aggression and expansion, and the continuous wars that fragmented Israeli society and place it in a state of further deterioration on the economic and political levels amid frustration and lack of confidence that will inevitably lead to reckless actions and serious adventures.

Concluding, *AD-DUSTUR* says: The declared results of the Israeli elections that have removed peace prospects from the region more than at any time before and weakened the ability of any Israel government to bear the responsibility of the peace option and its expected pains, must not make the Arabs relax or wait. They must seriously work to rebuild an effective pan-Arab stand that will be able them to confront all the expected serious eventualities of extremist leaders such as Kahana and other advocates of racial hatred and blind fanaticism from coming to power in Israel.

Israeli Elections Make Peace 'More Unattainable'

JN241736 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Following the semiofficial results of the Israeli elections, neither of the two large parties can form a government capable of running state affairs successfully. The Alignment and the Likud bloc have limited options, particularly the option of forming a national unity government, because such an option will lead to strong division within the ranks of both parties. Despite the fact that it is impossible for each of the two parties to form a government from the small parties, the Likud has a better chance in forming a new government than the Alignment. However, if the Likud succeeds in forming a government, there will be a continuous danger that this government will fall once again in the arena of struggle inside the Knesset.

The Israelis are wondering how they can get out of this situation at a time when Israel is suffering from economic, social, and military problems requiring the presence of a steady government depending on a solid and broad base that can run state affairs and deal with pressing Israeli issues. Hence, it is quite difficult to form a national unity government or a minority government because such a government will be weak and in continuous danger of collapsing. What is more likely is that a date will be fixed for new general elections within the next 6 months.

In case the Alignment and Likud bloc succeed in forming a national unity government, a matter which is currently ruled out, it is likely that the obscurity which enveloped the Alignment platforms will be replaced by the Likud's clear, defined principles on the future of peace in the Middle East. Peace in the wake of the Israeli elections has become more unattainable than ever before, because the Israeli extremist parties winning a large number of Knesset seats leaves no chance to submit any clear or specific concept on the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict or on a solution to the Palestine question, no matter which side will form the next Israeli Government. Yesterday's elections in Israel were an internal Israeli affair and the results confirm their peculiarity, especially since the subject of resolving the region's crisis and establishing peace in it has been ruled out.

Al-Jumayyil Chairs Meeting on Return of Evacuees

NC241708 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting at 1600 today. It was attended by Minister of Public Works Walid Junblatt; Deputy Phalangist Party leader Dr Elie Karami; Dany Sham'un, National Liberal Party secretary general; Tanius Saba; Akram (Shayyi); Joseph al-Hashim; Pierre Karam; George Dib Ni'mah; Michel Samaha; Milad (al-Qarih); and Mother (Binian), mother superior of [word indistinct] order of nuns.

The conferees discussed security and development issues concerning the mountain and studied the phases of the evacuees' return.

A committee was formed comprising Joseph al-Hashim, Akram (Shayyi), and Joseph Dib [as heard] to follow up the issues raised at the meeting. The committee will hold its first meeting in the Presidential Palace at 1100 tomorrow.

Committee on Evacuees Meets With Sham'un

NC241407 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Dany Sham'un, secretary general of the National Liberal Party, met at his party's central headquarters this morning with Antoine Shuwayri and Emile Khuri, two members of the Christian committee charged with coordinating the return of displaced persons to the Ash-Shuf. They discussed the return of the displaced persons to their homes.

Dayr al-Qamar Mayor George Dib Ni'mah joined the meeting later. Then everyone proceeded to [former] President Camille Sham'un's house. There, Ni'mah briefed Camille Sham'un on the results of the meeting held last Sunday in Al-Mukhtarah between Christian leaders and Minister Walid Junblatt.

President Sham'un and the Christian committee welcomed the results achieved thus far. After the meeting, the committee released the following statement:

1. The committee welcomes every endeavor that aims to return the displaced persons to their villages and homes in the Ash-Shuf and the mountain and to restore peaceful coexistence among the people of the mountain and the Ash-Shuf coast.

2. The committee puts on record its complete satisfaction with the statement Minister Walid Junblatt made following the Al-Mukhtarah meeting, which was attended by George Ni'mah.

Karami Confers With Soviet Charge in Beirut

NC241134 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] At 1130, Prime Minister Rashid Karami received the EEC's representative to Lebanon (Lawrence Lanari). Discussions during the meeting dealt with the aid that the EEC could offer to Lebanon in various fields.

At 1230, Prime Minister Karami received Soviet charge d'affaires in Beirut (Yuriy Suslikov). Both sides discussed bilateral relations and the role that the USSR could play on the international level to force Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory. In a brief statement following the meeting, (Suslikov) said: We discussed certain issues that are linked with Lebanese-Soviet contacts.

Karami Refuses Comment on Israeli Elections

NC241641 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] As he was leaving the Government House today, Prime Minister Karami was asked for his opinion on the results of the Israeli elections. He said: I have not yet seen the results, so I cannot express an opinion on them.

Karami To Leave For Syria, Saudi Arabia 26 Jul

NC241123 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami will leave for Damascus next Thursday on the first leg of an Arab tour that will take him to Saudi Arabia, where he will discuss several security, political, and economic issues, as well as development and construction and any aid Saudi Arabia can extend in this respect, given the fact that Syrian aid will be confined to promoting security in Greater Beirut.

Karami will be accompanied to Damascus by a delegation composed of former President Malik Salam; Shafiq Munaynimah, Cabinet secretary general; and Colonel Simon Qassis, Army intelligence director. They will hold talks with key Syrian officials on the situation in Lebanon. Karami has also invited journalist Doyens Muhammad Ba'labakki and Milhim Karam to accompany him on his 1-day visit to Syria. As for his visit to Saudi Arabia, no date has been fixed as yet.

VOL on Karami Trip

NC250624 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Observers have reported a series of security gaps and excesses due to the 6th Brigade's ineffective role and interference. Remarks have been made criticizing the behavior of this brigade, particularly on certain main contact lines in West Beirut.

The Military Council will look into these remarks soon. Highly placed sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that the issue is not one of heavy weapons with which the 6th Brigade should be equipped; it is rather the failure of various sides in West Beirut and the southern suburb to honor their pledges. Therefore, the 6th Brigade must carry out the order of the day issued by the Army Command.

It is worth noting that Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri have pledged to implement the security plan in letter and spirit.

Government sources have regrettably noted that Birri continues to act as if the aforementioned brigade receives orders from him and not from the Army Command.

In another development, political circles attach utmost importance to the visit that Prime Minister Rashid Karami will make to Damascus tomorrow and to Saudi Arabia next Saturday.

The circles expect that the prime minister, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam will review a number of issues, foremost being:

A. To assess the steps made so far with regard to the security plan;
B. To review the internal security situation, particularly since this situation is incompatible with the current move to positively settle the security issue;
C. To discuss the question of the north, both on the political and security levels, in a bid to ensure Syrian backing for a security plan which will be specially drafted for this area, following the security deterioration which prevailed in the Al-Kurah, Zgharta, and Al-Batrun areas.

As for Karami's visit to Saudi Arabia, the prime minister will seek the Kingdom's political, economic, and financial backing, of which Lebanon is in dire need.

Cabinet Approves New Security Plan for Beirut

NC251135 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The Cabinet session ended at 1320 by approving a new security plan for Greater Beirut.

The council also focused discussions on ways to handle the entire security situation and the security gaps that are being experienced in Greater Beirut.

The Cabinet session, which started at 1015 in the absence of Ministers Pierre al-Jumayyil, 'Adil 'Usayran, and Victor Qsir, is extremely important because it will resolve a number of thorny security and political problems in light of reports compiled by the military command.

However, these problems and gaps which have been exploited by opponents of a settlement should be resolved to consolidate the security plan.

Consequently, the Army Command, represented by the Army general and the chief of staff, were invited to participate in the session to brief Cabinet members on practical steps and measures taken to overcome all [security] gaps. The military command, therefore, urged the officials to uncover any side or person who attempts to disrupt security or obstruct the provisions of the security plan.

The command, furthermore, urged the officials to give to the Army, which is entrusted with preserving security in Beirut and other areas since it is the sole legitimate tool for preserving the unity of the homeland, every political resource available.

Walid Junblatt Interviewed by AL-MAJALLAH

PM241413 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21-27 Jul 84 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, minister of public works and tourism and leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, by Zaki Shihab in Beirut -- date not given]

[Excerpts][Shihab] You have withdrawn your forces from Beirut before others. Why?

[Junblatt] We have withdrawn forces and heavy weapons from Beirut in order to create a suitable atmosphere for the implementation of the anticiapted security plan. Heavy weapons must disappear from both West and East Beirut and light and medium weapons should be put under the joint control of the Lebanese Army and ourselves. This step will be taken throughout Beirut in order to ensure at least minimum security for the inhabitants.

[Shihab] Do you expect the security plan to succeed in the long term?

[Junblatt] The outlines of the plan have been drawn up and must be carried out in a careful and balanced manner. Care must be taken not to repeat mistakes of the past, when the Army implemented a one-sided plan in West Beirut but did not implement it in East Beirut. The new Army Command should learn the lessons of past mistakes so as to ensure success for the present plan.

[Shihab] You say that you are in the course of launching a new national front of which your party (the Progressive Socialist Party) will be one of the mainstays. What is the framework of this front? Is it similar to the previous Nationalist Movement?

[Junblatt] In principle we are for the establishment of a national front, but so far we have not laid down a practical framework for it. In principle we are for setting up a body that would bring together the nationalist forces in the Lebanese arena in order to confront internal and external conspiracies.

[Shihab] You were leader of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, but you joined the government as part of the Islamic forces grouping in it. Has there been any change in your political course?

[Junblatt] There is no difference between the Islamic forces and the nationalist forces. I am pursuing a clear nationalist line and I will not abandon the principles of this line, which the late Kamal Junblatt followed.

[Shihab] How true it is that Minister Nabih Birri (Amal Movement leader) is the only one in the Cabinet advocating the abolition of political sectarianism?

[Junblatt] The slogan of political sectarianism was raised by the Lebanese nationalist forces. This slogan was first raised by the late Kamal Junblatt.

If Nabih Birri is adopting this slogan, there is no objection to his doing so. But it is well known who originally raised this slogan.

[Shihab] It is said that relations between you and Nabih Birri are lukewarm, while previously there was clear coordination between you.

[Junblatt] There are no problems between us and Birri. Relations are as good as they can be and so are coordination and political alliance. We are comrades in the same trench and the blood spilled on all the fronts is common blood.

[Shihab] What is the common interest between you and the "Lebanese Forces"?

[Junblatt] There is no common interest. The meeting that took place in Bikfayya was an attempt to consolidate the cease-fire, no more and no less.

[Shihab] Once you described Elie Hubayqah as being one of those responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres, but now you have met with him. How did this happen?

[Junblatt] I still believe that and I have not changed my stand. As I said, the meeting was an attempt to consolidate the cease-fire. But this does not mean that we have forgotten the past. With regard to the Sabra and Shatila massacre, those concerned with the matter have forgotten the subject. I would say no more than that. It was a compromise at the expense of the victims. We were the first in Lebanon to raise the question of Sabra and Shatila.

[Shihab] What is behind your continuing call to your supporters and partisans to carry on preparing for a long battle? Is this call for mobilization consistent with your being a leading member of a government that is working for national unity?

[Junblatt] When matters settle down, the flow of arms to the "Lebanese Forces" stops. When we have confidence in the Army and when we know that government has actually become a government representing all factions in all walks of life, then we can say to supporters and partisans that life and stability have returned to Lebanon. Until this happens we will continue to mobilize.

[Shihab] How far can it be said that the national unity government will be able to restore security and stability for the Lebanese?

[Junblatt] It is not a national unity government; it is a government of a particular setup. I demand that this government be expanded so that it will be a real national unity government including political leaders, even if such leaders do not represent armed organizations. The armed organizations should not have a monopoly of decisions and decisionmaking. There are political organizations and independent nationalists who should be involved if a national unity government is to be founded.

[Shihab] What is your opinion of the new Army setup?

[Junblatt] It is a new sectarian setup. As long as conditions do not allow more than that, it is all right.

[Shihab] How does Walid Junblatt evaluate the nationalist resistance in the south?

[Junblatt] It is splendid work and it is appreciated. But all I wish is for certain people to avoid outbidding the resistance in the south and not to exploit it in their rallies and speeches, so that the resistance will remain clandestine and pure. Those who have nothing to do with the resistance should stop making speeches and doing other, similar things, because that would be better.

Islamic Unification Movement Detains 11 Persons

NC241322 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has declared that his movement has detained 11 persons in the areas of Jubayl and Al-Qubayyat.

Shaykh Sha'ban reassured the relatives of the detainees that the detainees are well, indicating that the operation was only a normal measure to secure the release of four Tripoli citizens who were recently kidnapped by Phalangist gunmen on the Al-Barbarah roadblock.

RFL Reports 'Intensive Sniper Fire' in Tripoli

NC241633 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Gunfire was directed at Tripoli's At-Tabbanah quarter from the wheat market and Tal'at al-'Umari this afternoon. Shaykh Sa'id Amin Nu'ayshi was wounded.

The latest security reports say there is now intensive sniper fire from the Corniche area up to the Ad-Dabbaghah area.

VOAL Reports 4 Wounded

NC241735 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The guarded calm that has been prevailing in Tripoli was disturbed by continued sniper fire in the Al-Qubbah area today. Our correspondent reports that four persons were wounded by sniper fire.

Clashes Erupt

NC250933 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Clashes erupted anew on various contact lines in Tripoli early today. Machine guns and RPG's were used during the clashes which broke out at 0100 and ended at 0500. Since 0500, sniper fire has been traded in various areas. An 8-year-old boy was wounded when he was passing in the Jisr at-Tabban quarter. Civil defense and Red Cross teams could not remove the wounded in view of the sniper fire.

Contacts were held with the acting governor of the north, 'Abd al-'Aziz Abu Haydar, and with the security organs to facilitate the work of the Red Cross and civil defense teams.

RFL Reports on Closure of Israeli Liaison Office

NC250526 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Press reports quote a Lebanese source as saying that Israeli officers left the liaison office in Ad-Dubayyah by sea at midnight, taking with them equipment and documents. The source added that the information attache, accompanied by General (Afa), left by sea from Israeli boats which arrived for this purpose. The source explained that the office will be officially closed at 1200 today.

A Lebanese military source has stated that the Lebanese flag, which has been flying over the villa in which the liaison office was located, will be furled at 0900 today and that the office will be considered officially closed as of this hour.

Israelis Fire at Sidon Fishing Boats 24 Jul

NC241653 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Israeli occupation forces intensified their acts of aggression in the south today. Israeli gunboats opened heavy machine gun fire at Sidon fishing boats while they were sailing to their fishing grounds. A number of fishing boats were heavily damaged and many nets were destroyed.

2 Israelis Reportedly Killed in Attack in South

NC241647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1550 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] A Lebanese national resistance group attacked an Israeli foot patrol as it was crossing the main road between Shukin and Mayfadun at 0730 today. Two Israelis were killed and one member of the national resistance group was wounded. Later, Israeli intelligence agents stormed Amal Movement official Husayn 'Ubayd's house.

PLO Dissidents Set Up New Positions in Al-Biqa'

NC241444 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Reports from the Al-Biqa' say that the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group has recently set up new positions in the Ta'lbaya and Ta'nayil areas. The inhabitants of Ta'lbaya have asked the Syrian command to move the Palestinians further from their houses for fear of Israeli raids.

Broadcasting Stations Used by Militias Surveyed

WA201646 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 63, 23 Jun 84 pp 39-40

[Article by Muhammad ash-Shami: "The War on the Airwaves;" Beirut]

[Text] In the throng of solutions and political projects which are going back and forth between the cease-fires and violations, the pursuit of kidnappings by counter-kidnappings and pre-emptive kidnappings, the openings of crossings and passages and the alternation of agreement and disagreement, there remains a basic matter which poses a danger to agreement and to achieving the slogan of national unity, a greater danger than the war of shelling, sniping, and contact lines. It is [the danger of] a war of talk over the air, a matter of Lebanese media in general and especially a matter of the "private radios" which have stuck up their heads here and there since the outset of the 1975-76 war.

Those meeting in the "Bayt ad-Din Assembly" trace this to 1977. They agreed at that time on the necessity of closing all of the "private radios," but some became concerned on some pretext, or without pretext, and the fabricated clamor which followed forced the worriers to bury this subject, as they have done with other subjects and problems, pending future developments.

At the end of last month, in the emergency session which the Lebanese Cabinet held to decide on the final formula of the ministerial communique, this problem was raised again so that it might be solved by increasing the government's stability in information, thereby playing an important role in supporting the government line in realizing its slogan of "national unity."

What are these broadcasting stations? What is the object of building them? What do their owners or patrons say about them?

We will begin with the Lebanese radio station, or "Radio Lebanon." This is the official radio station, whose policy is controlled by the minister of information. This radio began broadcasting its programs under the name of "Near East Radio," changed after that to "Radio Beirut From Lebanon," and finally to "Radio Lebanon From Beirut." It was subjected to a number of setbacks, the last of which was in 1976 when it split into two parts for a period of over 7 months and began transmitting from two different places.

The first of these was the quarter of As-Sina'i' in West Beirut, where its main center was, controlled at that time by the "National Movement"and the "Army of Arab Lebanon." The second was in the town of 'Amshitin the district of Jubayl at the transmitter center. The "Lebanese Front" alliance forces controlled it and the 'Amshit radio station was under the direct supervision of the president of the republic, who at the time was Sulayman Franjiyah. It broadcast his speeches and official political activities, while As-Sina'i' radio opposed this. At the beginning of President Ilyas Sarkis' administration, it was reunified, but weakened its programs and transmission so that the majority of listeners gradually switched to programs broadcast by "private radios."

The private radios are:

Radio "Voice of Lebanon"

This radio was established in 1976 by decree of former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Its policy is determined by the Lebanese Phalangist Party. Its artistic programming often is equal to other radio programs in seriousness and diversity. This station is located in the Al-Ashrafiyah District of the capital's eastern half. The Lebanese Phalangist Party had previous experience with the station during the events of the summer of 1958, in the adminis-

tration of former President Camille Sham'un, when its broadcasts were limited to political commentary and critical songs. The most famous among these were the commentaries of Abu Alhan, or the poet Fu'ad Haddad, who was assassinated at the end of these events.

"Voice of Arab Lebanon" Radio

This is the number two radio in terms of transmitting power and artistic programming. It was founded by the Independent Nasirite Movement (Al-Murabitun) in 1976. After a conflict over the fate of the private radios, the Nasirite Movement was able to get an allocation for it in 1981 from the government of Dr Salim al-Huss during the administration of former President Ilyas Sarkis. Its equipment was stolen or damaged on the eve of the Israeli destruction of Beirut, forcing it to stop [transmitting] for a time, but it soon returned to its former level of programming. Its location is in the quarter of Al-Mazra'ah in the capital's western half.

"Voice of Free Lebanon" Radio

Current organ of the Lebanese Forces (the military wing of the Lebanese Front), it is not recognized officially. It was founded in 1977 on the eve of the battles which went on between the Phalangist militias and the Syrian Army (Arab Deterrent Forces).

"Voice of the Mountain" Radio

Newly commissioned, it speaks with the voice of the Progressive Socialist Party and is located in the town of Shanayh in 'Alayh District. It opened on the eve of the most recent mountain war at the end of 1983. There is no official support from the authorities for this station to broadcast legally.

"Voice of the Arab Revolution" Radio

It was founded with the support of two local organizations, the Army of Arab Lebanon commanded by First Lieutenant Ahmad al-Khatib and the Workers'League headed by Deputy Zahir al-Khatib. This station was shut down by military action during the Israeli destruction of West Beirut after its equipment was stolen or damaged. It resumed broadcasting after the return to power on 6 February of the leftist parties and forces in the western half of the capital.

"Voice of Hope" Radio

Located in the town of Marj 'Uyun in occupied southern Lebanon, it is the organ of the militias allied with Israel there, the army of free Lebanon, founded by dissident Major Sa'd Haddad in 1979 after the Israeli destruction of villages in the south (the border strip) and declaration of the so-called state of free Lebanon.

"Voice of the Islamic Revolution" Radio

Located in the city of Ba'labakk in the Al-Biqa', it specializes in the broadcast of speeches, sermons, and spiritual guidance in Arabic and Persian which call for "the outbreak of the Islamic revolution" and features verses from the Holy Koran.

This station was founded with material and moral support from Iran. It is supervised by "Hezbollah" which is led by Shaykh Subhi at-Tufayli and by Islamic Amal led by Husayn al-Musawi.

"Voice of the Homeland" Radio

A new station still in its experimental development, it began transmitting at the outset of this month. This station is the organ of the Islamic Al-Maqasid Association, which is supervised directly by Tamam Salam, son of Beirut leader Sa'ib Salam.

FM Radios

In addition to this, there are a considerable number of private stations which broadcast their programs on frequency modulation (FM). They are far removed from political interests and politicians. They are not concerned with anything but artistic, musical, and informational affairs. These stations broadcast in French and some use French and English together. Among them are: "Mont Libon" radio which broadcasts its programs on 97 mHz; Magic 102 radio which broadcasts on 102 mHz; and 104 radio. One prominent FM radio is "Radio de la Jeunesse," which broadcasts its programs on 106.6 mHz. Its distinction is that it offers nothing but Lebanese and Eastern songs and music. In addition, there are "Voice of the Artists," "Radio of the Stars," etc., but these radios, as we have mentioned, remain specialized in music and songs.

The Television War

In the information war, the private radio stations have led to private television stations, some of them in operation and some of them just about to open. In the occupied south, there is "Free Lebanon" television, which is the mouthpiece of the army of free Lebanon forces. It broadcasts all of its programs in English. As a result of the civil war, Lebanon television was split in two under pressure from the forces controlling each region. In the northern province, the split was aggravated and as a result of the disruption in broadcasting from the province, the employees of the "Voice of Free and Unified Lebanon" radio began broadcasting the news daily at 8 pm. The "Independent Nasirite Movement" and the "Lebanese Phalangist Party each have a private television station. The former bears the name "Arab Lebanon Televison" and the latter is called the "Lebanese Establishment for Broadcasting," which was set up by the late President Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil. Its original studios were constructed in Juniyah. The two have ceased operation, but from time to time they broadcast experimental programs. They are competing with each other to broadcast their programs on Channel 12, which is the only available television frequency.

Many Reasons--One Solution

In the midst of this informational strife, a number of politicians are demanding that effective steps be taken to close or consolidate these stations, or to supervise their operations. In spite of the fact that discussions have dealt with the role that the private stations are playing at this particular time, most of those concerned with the matter confirm the necessity of allocating a special session of the National Assembly to studying the information situation in general and finding solutions to "special information." A ministerial committee has been formed headed by Prime Minister Rashid Karami with Minister Nabih Birri and Minister of Information Joseph Skaf in order to follow up on this matter.

In light of this, Minister Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil remains determined in his position of refusing on principle the investigation of this subject lest is should involve "Voice of Lebanon" radio

under the pretext that the radio is carrying out its role by the official authorization of the Lebanese Government during the administration of President Sulayman Franjiyah.

In the face of this position, Minister Walid Junblatt has expressed reservations regarding any resolution which calls for closing the private stations, emphasizing the necessity of dealing with this subject without prejudice.

For its part, the "Al-Murabitun" command told *AL-TADAMUN*: This contest does not concern us. First of all, the "Voice of Arab Lebanon" depends for its legitimacy on the nationalist and Islamic masses, and secondly, the station is officially recognized by a republican decree issued in 1981 and signed by former President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and Minister of Information Michel Iddih.

According to this decree, the radio station bears the name of Voice of Arab Lebanon--Al-Murabit Establishment for Information and Promulgation.

Tamam Salam, head of the Islamic Al-Maqasid Association, stated that the association would work toward opening a television transmitter, since it has achieved its first step of opening the "Voice of the Homeland" radio station. Concerning this, Tamam Salam said to *AL-TADAMUN*: It is as much our legal right to open a radio or television station as it is to publish a newspaper or magazine by virtue of our living in a free, democratic country. When the problem of private stations is solved, we are first among those who pledge themselves to any resolution issued by the Lebanese authorities.

Finally, what is the position of the Lebanese authorities within this framework?

Sources at the Ministry of Information stated that there is a draft being studied behind the scenes which stipulates unifying the private stations within a "Greater Lebanon Radio Project," in which work could be carried out to expand the official radio, develop it, and boost its transmission. The basic cadres in the other private stations are involved with this, and these sources added that this project is likely to be presented to the Cabinet in the session which is devoted to the study of the informational situation in Lebanon.

For his part, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said that, on this subject of the airwaves, his opinion necessarily agrees with the necessity of unifying Lebanese information in order to carry out the new government policy to dispense with these forms, because it is no longer conceivable that information should remain in this sick state.

In the midst of this uproar, a question arises about the potential for success by the authorities, represented by the three-man ministerial committee, in their task of unifying the official information establishments or of remedying the matter of private stations.

Are the new projects being studied at the present time going to be put into the officials' drawers' until Judgment Day? Until these [projects] are realized, citizens remain helpless between the spoken word of the bullet and the pen of the liars, lost in the labyrinth of the road to truth.

Ash-Shar' Interviewed on Gulf War, Other Issues

JN242141 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Jul 84

[Text] Beirut, 24 Jul (SANA) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' has said: We and Iran have developed a complete understanding on the need to avoid expanding the area of the Iraq-Iran war, on preventing the involvement of any Gulf state in this war, on rejecting U.S. intervention in the region's affairs, and abstaining from striking oil tankers in the Gulf if Iraq stops its attack on tankers.

This came in an interview with Ash-Shar' published yesterday in the latest issue of the Lebanese magazine *AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI*. In the interview, Ash-Shar' clarified the Syrian stand on the Iraq-Iran war and Syria's international relations.

Asked about Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's recent visit to Damascus, Ash-Shar' said: There is nothing new regarding our relations with Iran. Dr Velayati's visit was an opportunity to further clarify and define these relations. The Iranians have emphasized to us more than once that they have no ambitions against any inch of Arab territory.

He added that from the ethical point of view, the aggressor is supposed to publicly declare its responsibility for the aggression, but the Iraqi side has thus far not done so. From the viewpoint of international law, the side on which an aggression was committed is entitled to call for deterring the aggressor and for holding it responsible for the losses incurred by its aggression.

The foreign minister indicated in this regard that the Iranian leaders have recently begun to concentrate on ethical demands to end the war rather than legal demands. He stressed that the fulfillment of the Iranian ethical demand is the only sound way by which we can hope for an end to this war in the near future, indicating that the efforts and mediations to end the war will yield no results unless they take these practical facts into consideration.

Answering a question about attacks on oil tankers, Ash-Shar' said that Iraq began this war and hit several oil tankers in the Gulf before the Iranian's retaliated for this bombing. There were Arab oil tankers among those bombed by the Iraqi Air Force. He added that the Iranians expressed good intentions to prevent the expansion of the war from taking place. Thus, the Iraqi side must express similar intentions, or else it will continue to be held responsible for expanding the scope of the war, which Iraq was responsible for waging 4 years ago.

Regarding French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Damascus, Ash-Shar' said that this visit was the first direct contact on a high level between Syria and France following the lukewarm relations which resulted from the shift in the Multinational Forces' task in Lebanon from a peace force to a biased side. He explained that his talks with Cheysson were constructive and useful and would contribute to improving Syrian-French relations in the future.

Ash-Shar' affirmed that France can play a positive role in achieving just peace in the region by adopting an independent, balanced, and unbiased stand toward the conflict. This is in addition to committing itself to implementing the UN resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. He said that the insistence of Western countries, including France, on the principle of holding direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel means abolishing the UN role and providing Israel with the right to veto the results of negotiations in advance, and with the ability to control the course of negotiations from a position of power.

In an exclusive interview published in the latest issue of the [Lebanese] magazine *AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI*, Ash-Shar' said that Syria has basic differences with two Arab states, namely, Iraq and Egypt. The differences with Iraq are basic and acute and cannot be overcome easily; while the relations with Egypt are subject to President Husni Mubarak's abandoning of President as-Sadat's policy. This is because Syria had differences with Egypt regarding the conclusion of the Camp David accords, and before that, to As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Regarding Syria's relationship with the PLO, Ash-Shar' emphasized that Syria supports the unity of the PLO — being the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative — and rejects any relinquishment of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights.

Concerning Syrian-Lebanese relations, Ash-Shar' affirmed that Syria supports the Lebanese legitimacy in its march to achieve security, national reconciliation, and sovereignty over the Lebanese territories

Concerning Syrian-U.S. relations, Ash-Shar' said that there is nothing new in these relations.

Foreign Minister on Israeli Elections Results

JN241236 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' has stated that the results of the Israeli elections reflect to a large extent the crisis Israel has been experiencing since its invasion of Lebanon, adding that the formation of a new Israeli Government will be very difficult.

Damascus on Arab's Wagering on Israeli Elections

JN241348 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The wagerings of the reactionary regimes have collapsed. It has become clear that the most significant feature of the game of elections in Israel is the competition among the Zionist parties to see who is most committed to the Torah dream on which all the Israel leaders' efforts are based.

Those who linked the pan-Arab destiny of the most sacred Arab cause with the results of the game of elections in Israel, are those used to betting on U.S. presidential elections. They wasted Arab

time in the interest of the Zionist policy. Those gamblers must admit that their wager will continue to lose as long as they continue not to see Israel as a truely hostile entity, and Zionism as a racist movement, unanimously denounced by the whole world which has stressed its racism and separation from human aspirations.

Israel, which embodies the most hideous concepts of colonialism, has derived its policy and aggressive actions from the methods adopted by the Europeans in South Africa. Perhaps this explains the secret of official and unofficial alliances between the imperialist camp and the Zionist entity. This is the same reason that urged the Western media to exercise their hobby of deluding the Arabs and linking their future with whomever rules the United States or takes power in Israel.

Amid this delusion, the Zionist entity and Washington intensified their consultations and coordination to draw up military plans and political action programs in an attempt to deprive the Arabs of any of their rights through subjugating them to the results of blows dealt to them with U.S. blessing and participation. When those wagering Arab rulers submit their nation's fateful issues to the logic of Western media and U.S. diplomacy, and hope that Israel will replace its ruling officials, they are killing Arab destiny so as to expand imperialist influence and the Zionist Torah dreams. If the leadership of Begin, Sharon, and Shamir was able to turn Israel into a U.S. state, the opposition leaders of the Zionist Labor Party have the ability to turn the United States into an Israeli region. This can be understood through the deliberations of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The developments that accompanied the recession of the pan-Arab liberation process does not prove that Israeli is strong, but proves that the Arabs are weak and that Arab weakness is the result of wrong wagerings and is derived from collusion between defeatists on the one hand and U.S. diplomacy in particular and Western diplomacy in general on the other. While the Zionist parties are competing to reactivate the military establishment in Israel, we see may Arab regimes competing on who is most capable of increasing fragmentation and division of the Arab ranks. Past experience and present evidence, confirm that Israel is a aggressive colonialist entity, and that any of its political parties will only gain recognition through the services it renders to this entity and efforts that would pave the way for imperialism, in its capacity as Zionism's natural ally, to be the only effective force and the only decisionmaker in the entire region.

All these facts and all the evidence must convince all Arabs not to wager on their na'ion's question in the interest of its enemies. To prevent the Zionist will from achieving victory, Syria has taken a step toward establishing a strategic balance and excluded from its political calculations all that would hamper building the Arab intrinsic power which is the only means that can deter the aggressors and achieve Arab aspirations for liberating land and protecting Arab destiny.

AL-BA'TH on Israeli Elections, U.S. Support

JN250759 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 25 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the Zionist elections, *AL-BA'TH* says: As Arabs who are struggling for the Palestinian cause because it is our central cause and the core of our dispute with Israel, which was unjustly established by the usurpation of Palestinian land and expulsion of its people, we are not concerned whether the Likud or Labor Party wins. However, the elections have not only proven that the dreams of those panting after capitulation and surrendering to the enemy are false dreams but also have proven to the world at large that this artificial entity can never have the necessary components of a state, a state which the Zionist leaders have persistently tried to depict to the world as being a democratic and civilized state.

Those who have closely followed the developments of the election were very aware of the state of fragmentation that prevailed over the Zionist entity in all its stands. Economic stagnation and inflation have reached their peak and led to high prices. As for social dissension, it has reached a state whereby there is not harmony even among members of one family.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Successive U.S. Administrations have been the only ones not convinced of these facts. On the contrary, they have supported Israel, nurtured it and supplied it with all forms of assistance to turn Israel into a big and invincible force. The administration of President Reagan has rushed to reiterate its support for the winner regardless of whether it is the Labor Party or the Likud. The U.S.-Zionist alliance, according to the U.S. State Department, is an eternal alliance seeking to commit aggression against the Arabs and achieving expansion at the expense of the Arabs. Will the lesson be learned from what the elections have revealed with respect to the collapse of false dictums and continued U.S. support which must be strongly dealt with?

ATH-THAWRAH on Closure of Israeli Liaison Office

JN250904 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Damascus, 25 Jul (SANA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* says: What has so far been achieved in Lebanon calls for optimism and deserves national and pan-Arab appreciation because it has proven Lebanon's ability to settle its political and security problems and revealed the weakness of conspiracies and capitulatory plans in front of the peoples' unified will of confrontation.

In its editorial today, *ATH-THAWRAH* adds: After the Lebanese Government decided to withdraw its military personnel from the Ad-Dubayyah [Liaison] office, considering it a den of espionage and sabotage, security detente began to be entrenched in the Lebanese arena. This has actually proven that the Ad-Dubayyah office was behind the recent explosions in Lebanon. This should encourage the Lebanese Government to foil the Israeli role and strongly strike it to liquidate it.

The paper points out that the Zionist enemy, which has begun to feel that it has lost control in Lebanon, has managed to move its agents, especially those such as Antoine Lahd and his agents, into southern Lebanon to carry out acts of sabotage and prevent Lebanon from continuing its efforts to achieve the final step of comprehensive security.

Concluding, *ATH-THAWRAH* stresses that the Lebanese people, who foiled the capitulatory 17 May agreement and strongly and bravely confronted the Multinational Force, will be able to liberate their homeland from Israeli occupation, build its political unity, and establish their central state that will be able to stand fast in the face of all challenges and dangers.

TISHRIN Hits U.S. Rejection of Peace Conference

PM241525 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 Jul 84 p 8

[Marwan al-Mahayini Article: "The Arabs, Peace, and the United States"]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz believes that inviting the Soviet Union to participate in the peace process in the Middle East is a "bad idea."

Both he and the U.S. Administration deliberately ignore the UN secretary general's call to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East under the UN aegis with the participation of all parties concerned, including the two superpowers. They also ignore similar calls from other quarters.

The U.S. Administration's excuse, which of course is a flimsy, ridiculous, and rejected excuse, is that "the Soviet Union is involved in inciting disturbances in the Middle East, and Washington sees no evidence that the Soviet Union wishes to solve the Palestinian problem, the Lebanese problem, or any aspect of the situation in the area."

When George Shultz gives this as an excuse for U.S. and Israeli rejection of the idea of inviting the Soviet Union to take part in the peace process in the Middle East on the grounds that it is a "bad idea," it means that he is disregarding the most fundamental principles of the peace process and ignoring the facts and realities of the past decades in the area.

The whole world is aware of these facts and realities of the past years. It realizes and it bears witness that it is the United States, not the Soviet Union that has shown not a single piece of evidence during the past 30 years of its desire to solve the Palestinian problem or any world problem.

It is the United States and not the Soviet Union that blatantly interferes in the affairs of the area in support of the aggression, designs, and policies of its ally Israel and to prevent any legitimate international action to deter Israel's continuing aggression against the Arab nation and its territories, rights, and holy places.

Who is the one involved in inciting disturbances in the Middle East, who never ceases to interfere in every matter, great or small, and who supported the barbaric invasion of Lebanon and stirred up disturbances, chaos, and fighting and sent its fleets and guns to pound the homes of the Lebanese people and the positions of their nationalist forces? Was it the Soviet Union or the United States?

Obviously we are not reiterating what is already known to defend the Soviet Union's firm stand in support of Arab rights and its unswerving support for Palestinian rights. Nor are we reiterating this to confirm the depth of the U.S. hostility toward Arabs and their cause and its deep involvement in supporting aggression and disturbances, or the lack of desire on its part to establish just and lasting peace in the area, because all this needs no further confirmation and is well known.

But we are reiterating the above — which is only part of the body of facts that condemn the United States and refute its allegations — to remind the world that it is the United States that is the stumbling block to any attempts to establish peace. When it rejects the calls for an international conference on the Middle East on the pretext that inviting the Soviet Union to such a conference would be a "bad idea," the United States is pursuing the same policy it has never abandoned, and by rejecting the call for an international conference it is basically rejecting the idea of establishing a just and comprehensive peace. This is because it has its own "peace" which it has persistently been trying to impose on the Arabs — a peace that serves its own imperialist interests, the designs of its ally Israel, and the plan to impose its domination and to finally liquidate the Arab cause.

But what Shultz, his administration, and Israel are ignoring is that another will besides their will exists in the area and that Syria's steadfastness and courage will remain unchanged. They will realize that only their ideas are bad and that those struggling for the cause and for their land and rights will triumph.

Alignment, Likud Vie for Workable Coalition

Court Small Parties

TA241830 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] One day after the ballot boxes for the 11th Knesset elections were closed, the deadlock on the Israeli political map still remains, as the two large parties — the Likud and the Alignment — continue to claim that it is within their power to establish a coalition. Both have launched a massive courtship to woo the small parties. The Alignment leadership seems to favor setting up a national unity government under the Alignment. Our party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al is in the Tel Aviv studio:

[Anchorman Hayim Yavin] Nisim, good evening. It looks as though the leading item on the agenda is contemplating the possibility of establishing a national unity government, headed by either the Alignment or the Likud. What are the chances that such a government will indeed be formed?

[Mish'al] I believe today it is possible to point to a shift in the positions of the Labor Party, as for the first time the proposal of setting up a national unity government was raised and considered in a possibly favorable light. This option was described today as definitely realistic, but let me say right now that the tactics employed today by the two large parties were those of a preemptive war; in other words, basically preventing the opposite party from obtaining a coalition majority. The best definition would be to call it obtaining a blocking majority [rov hosem]. Throughout the day, the Alignment attempted to make preliminary contacts and hold initial negotiations to prevent the Likud from gaining a majority. The Likud, I believe, employed a similar method, so that in fact both large parties wish to obtain a blocking majority which will allow them, at the second stage, after they secure a larger number of Knesset members, to examine the possibility of establishing a national unity government.

[Yavin] Is there really a serious tendency in the Likud to accept an Alignment-led national unity government?

[Mish'al] I do not know whether the Likud people will be ready to join such a government, and they will doubtless claim that they enjoy a majority of Knesset members, so it should be the other way around, and the Alignment should join such a government. Conversely, the Alignment took action today to block this.

I think that the statement he issued this evening, in which 'Ezer Weizman said that Yahad is calling for the establishment of a national unity government led by the largest party, could — if we try to interpret this call, this statement — intimate that in fact Mr Weizman has created a block in the form of 60 Knesset members who will not let the Likud establish a coalition. Let us repeat this, and emphasize that the Likud will be unable to set up a coalition without 'Ezer Weizman, without his faction. At present, the Likud has 59 Knesset members — including TAMI. That is to say, the current coalition has 59 MK's. It will be impossible to establish a Likud-led coalition without 'Ezer Weizman.

Thus, 'Ezer Weizman said this evening: We, Yahad, urge the establishment of a national unity government headed by the largest party — which is the Alignment. This actually enhances the confusion in the labyrinth; alternatively, it could be seen as a possible breakthrough.

[Yavin] But perhaps precisely this call, issued by Weizman, was aimed at attracting some sort of invitation from the Likud?

[Mish'al] Possibly, that is certainly possible. It may well be a tactical move, but on the other hand this could be the harbinger of the first behind-the-scenes agreement between the Alignment and Yahad. I would not like to risk a prediction, or anticipate events, so we should see the declaration as possibly meaning a tactical move, or creating a block the Likud will not be able to overcome unless the Likud tries, and succeeds, in persuading 'Ezer Weizman to join it. At this stage, I believe this mission is becoming more and more difficult against the background of his statement of this evening.

[Yavin] What do we know about the National Religious Party [NRP] today? Were there any contacts, is the NRP taking any stand?

[Mish'al] Today everyone met everyone, and contacts were held across the board. Contrary to what we said before, that the Likud needs 'Ezer Weizman most of all, since without him it will be impossible for it to set up a coalition; the Alignment will be unable to form one without the religious parties — at least the NRP and SHAS. The Alignment's tactics today were to focus on those parties. Their assumption is that they could work things out with Weizman and TAMI and that these two parties will join them, but even so the Alignment will need the NRP and SHAS, which got four Knesset seats each, in order to obtain a coalition. To the best of my knowledge, Shim'on Peres conferred with Dr Burg today; Yitzhaq Navon exhausted his good ties with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef to talk SHAS into pondering, examining, and considering the possibility of joining a coalition with the Alignment.

And so you have another dead end, right there.

Consensus for Unity Emerging

TA250746 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The consensus emerging among most parties is that there is no way out of forming a national unity government. In the wake of the announcement by 'Ezer Weizman and Yiga'el Hurvitz [Yahad and Ometz movements respectively] of their support for a national unity government, the National Religious Party [NRP] is examining the possibility of adopting a similar stance.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav has learned that in the consultations with 'Ezer Weizman, NRP Minister Zvulun Hammer was inclined to support the position that his party will not join either a Likud or an Alignment coalition if it is not a national unity government.

Talks will begin in the Alignment today to convince MAPAM to withdraw its opposition to the establishment of a national unity government.

The leaders of the Tehiya/TZOMET movement expect that they will be the Knesset's third largest party and their demands within any coalition will be put accordingly. According to the movement's leaders, they need only 4,000 votes to obtain the 5th seat and they believe the soldiers' votes will help them gain it. Our correspondent was told that the Tehiya/TZOMET movement will demand two important Cabinet portfolios as well as the chairmanship of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs.

The Morasha Movement, which is made of up MATZAD and Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el, does not reject outright a coalition with the Alignment if the latter meets it halfway on Eretz Yisra'el issues. It is said in Morasha that if any coalition is dependent on it, Morasha's condition will be the enforcement of the Law of Return according to Torah laws. Morasha demands the education or the aliyah and immigrant absorption portfolios. Its candidate for minister is Yosi Shapira, who was not elected to the Knesset. Yesterday, Rabbi Druckman proposed that all religious parties form a bloc for the purpose of coalition negotiations.

Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, the head of SHAS, denies that his party intends to join an Alignment-led coalition. He told our correspondent that his party is inclined toward the Likud, but that all options are open when negotiations are involved. SHAS' Council of Torah Sages will convene today, apparently for an initial discussion of the contacts over the coalition formation.

Burg, Shamir Call for Unity

TA250717 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0705 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] A meeting between Yitzhaq Shamir and Yosef Burg ended in the prime minister's office a short while ago. At the end of the meeting, Dr Burg told our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel that the talk concerned clarifications only and that no conclusions have been reached yet. During their talk, both Shamir and Burg expressed the hope that a national unity government will be formed. The National Religious Party [NRP] leader said that a national unity government, if one is indeed formed, may be led either by the leader of the Knesset's largest party, or, alternatively, the person who gains the widest support among the components of such a government. Dr Burg said that the NRP leaders will meet tomorrow in order to determine their position on the issue of a coalition formation. He added that in any event the picture will become clearer when the final results of the 11th Knesset elections are known.

Shamir Meets SHAS on Coalition

TA251230 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1158 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, the leader of SHAS, met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at noon. At the end of the meeting he said: We have greater sympathy for the Likud but options are still open.

Peretz said that SHAS supports the idea of a national unity government, and that the question as to whether he would prefer a coalition led by the Likud or the Alignment depends on negotiations, as SHAS has a number of demands in the spiritual sphere.

After the meeting with the prime minister, the SHAS leaders met with the Tehiya/TZOMET leaders at the prime minister's office. Tehiya/TZOMET MK Ge'ula Kohen will meet with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef this evening, in an attempt to persuade him to help bring SHAS into a Likud-led coalition. This report was given by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Peres, Burg Confer on Coalition

TA241708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres and National Religious Party Leader Dr Yosef Burg met today, and it was reported that they discussed the various options of forming a coalition. Dr Burg repeated his proposal to set up a unity government. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that for the moment no agreements have been reached.

Levi on Unity Government

TA241932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Likud ministers today conferred at the prime minister's office for a few hours to discuss the results of he elections. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen spoke with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi at the end of the meeting:

[Begin videotape] [Ronen] Mr Levi, what do you think about the proposal that may be emerging in the Alignment to establish a national unity government which it would head?

[Levi] First of all, the first to call for the establishment of a national unity government was the prime minister, both before the elections and after their results became known. We are striving in this direction, and I hope that will come true. I am convinced that this government will be headed by Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Ronen] Still, you are not categorically rejecting the notion of a national unity government led by the Alignment?

[Levi] I cannot say that I am categorically rejecting a national unity government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. [sentence as heard] I fervently wish for such a government. I am working on this and I hope this comes true.

[Ronen] And what if a national unity government headed by Shim'on Peres is set up?

[Levi] I prefer a national unity government led by Yitzhaq Shamir, and that is what I am working on.

[Ronen] Mr Levi, in light of the possible dead end in forming a coalition, do you foresee the possibility of new elections shortly?

[Levi] Look, early elections have been held — and how did they help? They did not help the Alignment in any way whatsoever; the opposite is true. Nor did they do away with the Likud, but they have certainly hurt the economy. Those who wished and strived for this are certainly looking inside themselves today to see whether this helped in any way. Following such an election campaign, it would not be serious to talk about a rematch. Therefore, responsibility says that we should initially examine the possibility of forming the widest possible government; namely, a coalition partnership between the Likud, the Alignment, our former partners in the outgoing coalition, and others. If the other side does not want it, a government led by the Likud will be formed in Israel. [end videotape]

Tehiya Supports Likud

TA251052 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Arye Golan report from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Excerpts] Two hours after Shamir's meeting with the National Religious Party's leaders, he met with Tehiya/TZOMET leaders: Yuval Ne'eman, Refa'el Eytan, and Ge'ula Kohen. On leaving the prime minister's office, Minister Ne'eman told us: Tehiya/TZOMET did not raise any specific demands; we are going with the Likud, but it is too early to raise any demands.

[Begin recording] [Ne'eman] We told the prime minister that a national government [memshala le'umit] led by the Likud, a government that will continue the previous government's policies and perhaps go further in regard to some issues concerning Eretz Yisra'el, appeals to us very much. Generally speaking, though, this is the political line we will pursue. If there is room later on to expand this government and to establish a national unity government [memshelet ahdut le'umit] led by the Likud, we would be happy to participate provided Eretz Yisra'el issues are given the proper weight. It seems to us, however, that the most urgent matter is to first consolidate a Likud-led national government.

[Golan] Mr Minister, do you totally reject a national unity government headed by Peres? After all, you were once his adviser.

[Ne'eman] I was his adviser indeed, and I still belong, I assume, in the circle of his personal friends. In any event, relations between us are very good. I have friends in all parties. However, we reject an Alignment-led national unity government.

[Golan] It is apparently impossible for the Likud to establish a narrow coalition without 'Ezer Weizman. Will you participate in the same government with Weizman?

[Ne'eman] Well, first it has not yet been proven that Weizman must be in the government. We will only know after the soldiers' votes have been counted. If the soldiers' votes add one seat to the Likud and another to Tehiya/TZOMET, it is very possible that such a government can be formed without Yahad. As for the other part of your question, I have no reason to reject Weizman personally. I have nothing against him. The question is to what extent Yahad's entry into the Cabinet will change the government's basic policy guidelines. [end recording]

Morasha Terms for Likud Union

TA241511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Morasha is prepared to join a technical bloc of the religious parties in anticipation of the coalition negotiations. This was announced by Morasha's Hanan Porat. Earlier, the National Religious Party and Agudat Yisra'el suggested setting up such a bloc. Porat said that if a coalition led by the Likud is formed, Morasha will demand the aliyah and absorption portfolio.

Morasha Will Join Likud

TA251550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The Likud and the Morasha movement headed by Rabbi Druckman have agreed to serve together in any future government. Our correspondent Hayim Zissovitz reports that Morasha members conferred with the prime minister in the latter's office this afternoon. Upon emerging from the meeting, they announced their wish for a government led by the Likud, be it a coalition or a national unity government. Yiga'el Hurvitz is currently conferring with Yitzhaq Shamir. MK Ge'ula Kohen of the Tehiya arrived at the prime minister's office some time ago after conferring with the spiritual leader of the SHAS movement in order to persuade him to join a government headed by the Likud. MK Kohen will brief the prime minister on the results of this talk.

HADASH: No Likud, Coalition

TA241509 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] HADASH has said that the condition for its support for an Alignment government is an appeal by the Alignment, and talks. HADASH wants to examine, together with the Alignment, operational lines on peace and the defense of the Arabs' rights. The HADASH spokesman emphasized that in any case, his faction will oppose both a Likud government and a national unity government.

PLP To Remain Independent

JN241759 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1430 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Interview with lawyer Muhammad Mi'ari, leader of the Progressive List for Peace, by Nayif Khuri — live or recorded]

[Text] [Nayif Khuri] How do you view your position in the election? Where do you really stand?

[Muhammad Mi'ari] We have a message. We have specific objectives and we want to exert every effort to achieve them. We believe that serious Palestinian work will begin as of today regarding the issues of organization, enlightenment, and unveiling the energies that assisted in this great work. We want to place these issues in the right organizational framework, to increase our masses' insight, and to draw up a working plan on the various phases and on the bases of the objectives that we presented to our masses — namely, full equality for our citizens here, and to contribute in an effective way to finding a just solution to our Palestinian people's cause.

[Khuri] This is the movement's working plan. How do you view your work in the Knesset, especially since you have little experience in politics?

[Mi'ari] I am not new to politics. On the other hand, we view the Knesset as a platform for conveying our position. We will use this platform to realize our objective. We want to be at the center of events. We do not want to remain in an isolated corner. But there is a red line that we cannot cross in our dealings with people. We call for equality and just peace for our people. We will deal with those who support these objectives.

[Khuri] Do you mean you will be independent in the Knesset?

[Mi'ari] Of course, we are and we will remain independent.

[Khuri] Are you considering any coalitions or agreements?

[Ma'ari] I have said that we want to be effective. But we will never cooperate with the Likud or with the racists and radicals. We know what we should do. We also will discuss every proposal in light of the circumstances and in light of what we can realize of our program and objectives.

MAPAM Against Unity Rule

TA250945 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0931 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] MAPAM is still opposed to the establishment of a national unity government. This emerged following a meeting held by the Alignment's leadership. During the meeting, Labor Party leaders tried to obtain the consent of MAPAM leaders to enable Shim'on Peres to begin efforts to form an Alignment-led national unity government. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports that MAPAM's leaders, headed by Victor Shemtov, expressed firm opposition to a joint Alignment-Likud government. The Alignment's leadership will meet again at 1800 this evening.

Merchants for Unity Government

TA250843 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 84 p 2

[Text] Tel Aviv — It is imperative that a national unity government be set up immediately, Avner Ben-Yaqar, chairman of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, said yesterday. Ben-Yaqar said that the critical economic situation should convince all the political parties to put the good of the nation before narrow party interests.

Naftali Blumenthal, chairman of the board of Koor, yesterday called for setting up a "public committee of financial and economic experts" to guide the Finance Ministry until a new government is formed.

Blumenthal said that the incumbent finance minister should not be allowed to take steps "not within the framework of an overall long-range plan," saying that any rash steps would only "intensify existing chaos" and harm Israel's economic recovery.

Voting Patterns of West Bank Arabs Examined

TA250847 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 84 p 2

[Joshua Brilliant report]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The most striking fact emerging from the Arab vote in Monday's Knesset election is that lists catering to Palestinian nationalism won six mandates, two more than in the previous elections.

The Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (HADASH) retained four seats, while the new Progressive List for Peace [PLP] won two. The latter's success was at the expense of Zionist parties and is thought to mean that the Arab sector has become more extreme.

But the Arab vote was not monolithic. Moderate elements voted for 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad list, earning him one-third to one-half a mandate. Apparently those voters had supported the Alignment in previous elections. Weizman's campaign was active in the Arab sector, opening branches and hiring election workers.

Other minority votes were divided among many parties. In the Druse town of Daliyat al-Karmel, many votes went to Shinuy, since resident Zaydan 'Atshah was third on its list.

On the whole, the Alignment won as many votes as it did in 1981 — but that was not good enough because it did not win the votes which went instead to its affiliated lists. Nor did it manage to attract more voters to compensate for the increase in the size of the Arab electorate.

Binyamin Gur-Arye, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, noted in a conversation with *THE JERUSALEM POST* that HADASH was only several hundred votes short of its fifth mandate in the 1981 elections. This time they received enough votes for four mandates and have a surplus. Thus they just about kept their supporters, Gur-Arye noted.

Arab affairs expert Tzvi Elpeleg said he had attended several PLP rallies in Arab villages where speakers talked of "the return" of the Palestinian refugees. The party's letter Fe on the ballot slip also stands for "Falastin."

Above all, both HADASH and the PLP vied for the Palestine Liberation Organization's support and advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state side by side with Israel.

The PLP picked up many Beduin votes in the Negev. Sulayman al-Badur, secretary of the Beduin section of the Alignment in Beersheba, told *THE POST* yesterday, "This was clearly a protest vote," he said.

West Bank Reaction to Elections Reported

TA241841 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1838 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Nabulus, 24 Jul (ITIM) — The Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria reacted to the election results with both disappointment and happiness.

ITIM reports that the supporters of the PLO and the left were encouraged by the number of votes HADASH received, and by the success achieved by the Progressive List for Peace. As will be reacalled, extremist West Bank bodies issued a manifesto on the eve of the elections, calling upon the Arab citizens of Israel to vote for both.

On the other hand, the moderates who support Jordan, headed by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, are disappointed over the fact that the Alignment did not win a conclusive victory. They believed that a strong Alignment government could find a way for a dialogue with Jordan on the Palestinian issue.

Further Analysis

TA250845 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 84 p 1

[David Richardson report]

[Text] Surprise, puzzlement, disappointment and fear characterized reaction among West Bank Arabs yesterday to Monday's election.

Despite the preelection rhetoric of some radicals, it was clear that the majority of West Bankers hoped for and, like so many others, anticipated a Labor victory.

An Alignment-led government, they expected, would not only improve the atmosphere in the territories but at least held out the hope for a resumption of the peace process and a possibility of compromise that would take into account some of their aspirations.

"I was expecting a plebiscite," said Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, "and that's what is was. The country is divided almost equally between the right and the centre. There are no hopeful prospects for the people of the occupied territories."

The leading East Jerusalem daily *AL-QUDS* commented that no government that emerges from the election will be strong enough or stable enough to take bold decisions.

ASH-SHA'B, a more radical paper, said in its main item that the elections demonstrated the extent of social polarization in Israel. The elections also strengthened the extreme right, while the Likud was given a mandate to persecute and harass the Arabs in the territories, the paper said.

Fear and outrage at the election of Me'ir Kahana of KAKH was common yesterday. "That is an extremely dangerous and disgusting phenomenon," said Frayj. "Kahana is a racist calling for the expulsion of Arabs from the land where they have lived for centuries. How could that happen?"

The surprisingly good showing of the new Progressive List for Peace was either dismissed as insignificant, given the strength of the right, or regarded as some opening for hope.

Commentary on Arab Media Reaction to Elections

JN241532 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 24 Jul 84

["Observation" by Sadoq Ben Meir]

[Text] It is not strange for the Arab media to show an interest in the Israeli parliamentary elections, and it is natural for the Arab media to pay more attention than the international mediato these elections. In thier commentaries before, during, and after the elections, the Arab media described the Likud Party and the Labor Party as two faces of the same coin. The Arab media also tried to analyze, in accordance with their own methods and trends, each party's principles and how these two parties are two faces of one coin.

All Arab media have concealed the basic elements and principles of that coin with its two faces. With its two faces, this coin forms peace and only peace. Regardless of the party that may form the forthcoming Israeli Government, whether it will be a Likud, an Alignment, or a coalition government, the principle to be adopted by that government is peace with Israel's neighbors and a comprehensive peace in the entire region along with all its arrangements and international and regional commitments.

While the Arab media are trying to impair Israel's positions by talking about two faces of the same coin in regard to the Likud and the Alignment, and leveling accusations against the country, Israel feels proud of this coin aimed at peace in the region and coexistence among its peoples.

Ad-Dubayyah Liaison Office Closed 25 Jul

TA250407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Israel has closed the liaison office in Lebanon. The officials of the office were brought home this morning. The decision was taken by Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens after the Lebanese Government decided to withdraw its protection from the liaison office.

This morning Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud said that the recent steps of the Lebanese Administration go against the interest of Lebanon itself, and have been carried out against the declared will of many Lebanese. 'Amihud said these measures would cause harm and suffering to the Lebanese people. The Foreign Ministry spokesman added that Israel sees itself free to act to safeguard Israel's security interests and to protect its northern border. Israel, he said, would continue to maintain

contacts with the many friends it has in Lebanon from all the different ethnic groups and would continue to aspire to good-neighborly relations with Lebanon in the hope that the country continues to exist as an independent and sovereign state.

Further Comment

TA250447 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Telephone report by radio moderator Yitzhaq Ro'e in Jerusalem and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in the Tel Aviv studio — live]

[Text][Ro'e] Good morning to you, Shim'on Schiffer. Employees in the Israeli representation in Ad-Dubayyah were flown to Israel this morning aboard an Air Force plane following a decision by the prime minister and the defense minister to close the representation.

[Schiffer] The decision was already made at the beginning of the week, a day before the Knesset elections, and was kept secret until this morning, 2 days after the elections. On Sunday the Cabinet heard a report on the Lebanese Government's decision, and all those involved with Lebanese affairs recommended that under the present circumstances it would be best to close the representation.

In a special communique he issued this morning, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi 'Amihud emphasizes a number of issues worthy of attention. Israel, the spokesman said, views itself as free as ever to act to guard its security interests and to safeguard its northern border. Israel will continue to maintain contacts with its numerous friends in Lebanon, from among all communities there, and will continue to aspire to good-neighborly relations with Lebanon, in the hope that Lebanon with continue to exist as an independent and sovereign state. The abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement under Syrian pressure, the spokesman says, as well as the Lebanese Government's recent moves run counter to Lebanon's interest itself, first and foremost. This was done contrary to the declared and clear-cut will of many Lebanese, and will, of necessity, cause a great deal of harm and suffering to the Lebanese people. The representation acted in Lebanon with the agreement of the Lebanese Government prior to the signing of the 17 May agreement; it continued to act in the spirit of the agreement which reflected Israel's policy vis-a-vis Lebanon and was an expression of the Lebanese Government's ability to make independent decisions according to its national interests.

To repeat, the representation employees returned home from Beirut this morning. As may be recalled, the Cabinet authorized the prime minister and defense minister to make the decision on the future of the Israeli representation in Ad-Dubayyah. When the Lebanese Government decided to eliminate Israel's liaison office, it was clear that the representation would be removed. It should be emphasized that the two countries will now have to seek ways of dialogue. The IDF controls about 30 percent of Lebanon's territory and the passage from southern to northern Lebanon through the Al-'Awwali bridges is controlled by Israel. This control extends to the Tyre and Sidon ports.

In conclusion, 2 days after the elections to the 11th Knesset we are witnessing the beginning of the end of Israel's deep involvement in Lebanon which started with the Lebanese war, and the road from here to the pullback of the IDF from southern Lebanon is not long.

Lubrani on Evacuation

TA250540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, by radio moderator Yitzhaq Ro'e — live]

[Text][Ro'e] Good morning, Mr Lubrani. We talked several days ago, when Lebanon decided to remove the Lebanese Army soldiers guarding the Israeli representation from the Ad-Dubayyah liaison office. This chapter is now over, but as you are the man who conducts the talks, or at least the one who tries to coordinate matters with the Lebanese Government, I would like to know whether there can be continued contacts and coordination with the Lebanese Government in the absence of the official representation in Beirut?

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that coordination will be much more complex in regard to certain issues.

[Ro'e] This is what you said already, but I want to know whether the continuation of contacts is possible.

[Lubrani] There is nothing that is completely impossible, but I do say matters will be more complicated. If you are in Beirut and have access to places and can make local telephone calls, it is easier to coordinate matters than in these new circumstances.

[Ro'e] The question, however, is whether the atmosphere created in Beirut under the government ruling there now enabled continued practical activity by the representation employees who, so it could be understood, were personae non grata there.

[Lubrani] The answer to this is no. There is no doubt that the moment the government to which you refer decided that it no longer wanted the representation there, and as a result was unprepared to safeguard the employees, it left us no choice but to leave.

[Ro'e] If this is the case, if these are the practical moves, the question arising then is whether or not we should understand from this that contacts should be maintained only with the southern Lebanese, without using the services of the Lebanese Administration officials as they simply do not want to cooperate.

[Lubrani] This is what will happen now in fact.

[Ro'e] Will this be the case indeed, despite what you have yourself hinted at, that it is possible to continue to hold contacts without maintaining an official representation there with a flag.

[Lubrani] I said this is possible; I said nothing is completely impossible. However, I do say that under the present circumstances we will maintain our contacts only in southern Lebanon.

[Ro'e] I know, however, that this representation acted, for instance, to enable merchants and Lebanese to travel from the Beirut area to southern Lebanon through the Al-'Awwali bridges, as well as in the opposite direction. How will this traffic proceed from now on?

[Lubrani] This will proceed as it has to date. Licenses for passage through the Al-'Awwali bridges were received in southern Lebanon. The few licenses issued in the north will no longer be issued.

[Ro'e] The travel of merchants to southern Lebanon will then, in fact, be prevented.

[Lubrani] Merchants from southern Lebanon who want to travel north know where to obtain the appropriate licenses. As for merchants from northern Lebanon who want to go south, they will be faced with a very difficult problem.

Rabin on Closure

TA250628 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Telephone interview with MK Yitzhaq Rabin by radio moderator Yitzhaq Ro'e — live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Good morning, Yitzhaq Rabin. What is your reaction to the closing of the Beirut liaison office, which was characterized by our political correspondent as the end of the chapter of Israel's deep involvement in Lebanon?

[Rabin] First, I regret the Lebanese Government's decision. As a result, there was no choice but to remove the Israeli representation from Ad-Dubayyah. At the same time, it is clear that the current Lebanese Government is controlled by the Syrians. It was put together under Syrian influence and it reflects the political situation which has existed in Lebanon for a long time now. This compels Israel to recognize that our attempt — through expanding the Lebanese war beyond safeguarding peace in the Galilee — to achieve weighty political influence in Beirut was an illusion, which was dispelled a long time ago in fact. Today we should occupy ourselves with the only practical issue, which is guaranteeing the safety and well-being of Israel's northern settlements and residents, independent of the Lebanese Government's stance.

[Ro'e] Mr Rabin, when you served as prime minister, contacts were maintained with Lebanese in Lebanon without the existence of an official representation, and those contacts were held regularly and without a hitch. Do you view the closing of the Israeli representation in Beirut as a loss for Israel?

[Rabin] The fact is that this representation was opened, and with much fanfare and ado, so that the very closure is a blow to this policy or goal involved. In my opinion, contacts with Lebanese groups will continue, not with the government necessarily but possibly with government elements. This was the case in the past and this will be the case in the future, too. If moves are made wisely and in light of the major objective, that of seeking a way to end the war in Lebanon while guaranteeing the northern border, I believe we will all be better off. I believe this is the end of the chapter of illusion which caused the expansion of the Lebanese war.

Currency Devalued, Exchange Measures Imposed

TA251122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] There was a surprise when foreign currency trading resumed today: The shekel was devalued this morning by only 1.5 percent as compared to the dollar, after a 4-day break in trade. The representative rate of the dollar now is 269.56 shekels. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that since the beginning of the month, the dollar rose about 14 percent against the Israeli shekel. There was no rush, and quiet foreign currency trading was noted in the banks today. The resumption of trading also caused a decline in the dollar's rate on the black market.

Foreign Currency Regulations

TA241812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] A 15-percent value added tax will be imposed beginning Friday on all the foreign currency Israelis take with them abroad, and on services overseas for which Israelis have paid in advance. This was one of the resolutions passed this evening in consultations involving Treasury officials and officials from the Bank of Israel.

Our correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that travelers who have already acquired their foreign currency allowance will have to prove that they paid the tax, otherwise they will not be allowed to leave the country. People who bring foreign currency back to Israel will be reimbursed for the tax. This arrangement will be based on emergency regulations until it is passed by the Knesset.

Foreign currency limitations will also be enforced, and as part of this the license to transfer foreign currency to places outside Israel for the purpose of supporting relatives, or to purchase gifts, has been revoked. The permit to make advance payments in foreign currency for importing goods into Israel has likewise been rescinded. Nor will Israelis be allowed to advance the repayment of foreign currency loans obtained from foreign nationals.

The finance minister again called for signing an economic package deal and the establishment of a unity government. He claimed that ignoring this call will conflict with the needs of the economy and the working public, under the present circumstances.

Finance Minister Explains Move

TA241947 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1925 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 24 Jul (ITIM) — A 15-percent value added tax will be imposed on the purchase of foreign currency for the travel allowance beginning this coming Friday.

This was announced by Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad and Dr Moshe Mandelbaum, the governor of the Bank of Israel, at a news conference held in Jerusalem this evening.

A similar rate of value added tax will be imposed on the import of services from abroad, such as tourist services in foreign countries, so that a state of equilibrium will be created between services purchased in Israel, which are subject to value added tax, and those purchased overseas. Also, the license on taking shekels out of the country, worth $2,000, was also amended and limited to the equivalent of $50 only. This means that anyone who leaves the country and takes shekels with him may keep abroad only a sum equivalent to $50.

It was also decided to completely cancel the license for the transfer of foreign currency to foreign countries, used for gifts and support, which stood at an annual rate of $2,000. These as well as new regulations concerning supervision of foreign currency — decided upon today — will apply on Wednesday morning, except for the collection of value added tax on the purchase of travel allowances, which will begin only on Friday.

The new foreign currency supervision regulations also supersede the license to transfer foreign currency overseas for the purpose of advance payment for importing goods, or for the early defrayal of foreign currency loans obtained from foreign residents.

The finance minister explained that the moves were made in order to prevent early payment, as many businessmen used to do in a bid to secure themselves against a possible devaluation.

Mr Kohen-Orgad explained that the economic policy of balancing the rate of exchange and the level of the consumer price index will continue, and does not necessitate any devaluation whatsoever. He emphasized that ever since October 1983, during which the big devaluation and the latest price hikes were implemented, the economy has been standing at the same rate of real exchange, which is approximately 5 percent higher than the real level of the month before, namely last September, both vis-a-vis the dollar and compared to the price index.

The minister added that these new regulations and limitations will apply for an interim period of 3 months, and were intended to prevent the situation stemming from the unjustified rush manifested in the economy over the past month, when a process involving advance payment of foreign currency to overseas destinations could be discerned, apparently resulting from expectations of devaluations and against the pre-election uncertainty.

At the same time, the finance minister stressed the immediate need in Israel for firm measures to curb inflation as soon as possible, and announced that the current government, which is in power until the new government is installed, will carry out these measures realizing the urgency that is required.

Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad again called on the Histadrut and the economic bodies' coordinating committee to enter into talks with the Treasury on signing a social pact involving a price and salary freeze to combat inflation without causing unemployment.

Bank of Israel Governor Dr Moshe Mandelbaum pointed out that the administrative measures described here are aimed at closing loopholes in the regulations on supervising foreign currency, in light of the fact that the public has demonstrated panic and unjustified premonitions. He promised that all action to adjust the monetary tools to the changing circumstances, in order to bring the economy up to a standard that will make possible a "package deal" involving all the economic bodies — which is the best solution to the economy's woes — will continue.

Iranian Military Equipment Deal Reported

TA251107 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jul 84 p 4

[Report by Paris correspondent Tamar Golan]

[Excerpt] Each day 40 trucks loaded with Israeli military equipment travel from Israel across the Syrian border near Al-Qunaytirah, cross through General al-Asad's country to Turkey, and from there they go to Iran.

This was the description given yesterday by a Radio-Tele-Luxembourg [RTL] correspondent. According to correspondent Christian Mallard, Israel signed a weapons deal with Iran, and this is the way in which it is carried out. The French correspondent in this way sought to corroborate a report on this which initially appeared about 1 month ago, and which was confirmed after the fact by Swiss authorities.

The RTL correspondent said yesterday that in June Colonel Ya'aqov Nimrodi, Rif'at al-Asad, the head of the Iranian intelligence service, and the Iranian deputy defense minister signed an agreement in a Zurich hotel according to which Israel will supply Iran with systems for aircraft landing and other military equipment. Ever since then the trucks have been leaving Israel for Iran via Syria.

Syria Develops Fortifications, Resumes Training

TA251309 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Jul 84 p 3

[Report by military correspondent Alex Fishman]

[Text] It can be assumed that in the near future Syria will not pursue any aggressive initiatives against Israel.

For the time being the Syrians are exerting considerable efforts this summer to establish an extensive infrastructure of fortifications. The new Syrian defense lines are based upon changes in their defense concepts resulting from the war in Lebanon.

The fortification activities of the Syrians along the confrontation lines can be observed from the IDF posts in Lebanon. The Syrian Army's heavy mechanical equipment is busy building infrastructure to absorb armored personnel carriers (APC's) and tanks in highly fortified and camouflaged posts. The new Syrian defense concept is also evident in the planning and practice of maneuvers of the Syrian Army, which lately renewed its regular training following a long period of unrest against the background of the war of the succession in Damascus.

In order to contain the threat of an Israeli air attack, the Syrians are busy improving the anti-aircraft defenses near the confrontation lines with Israel and in the depth of Syria.

The process of absorbing military equipment from the Soviet Union is proceeding as planned. It should be noted that the Soviets took care to ensure that they would not be kicked out of Syria, as happened in Egypt in the early 1970's. The Soviet advisers who are deployed with the Syrian Army, and whose numbers are in the thousands, are militarily active beginning at the battalion level.

Shamir Hopes To Strengthen Relations With Egypt

TA251240 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV In Hebrew 25 Jul 84 p 11

[Refa'el Mann report]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday expressed his hope of strengthening Israeli-Egyptian peaceful relations in a way that they may serve as an example and a challenge for the whole Middle East.

This was conveyed in congratulatory messages he sent this week to Egypt's Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the new foreign minister, 'Ismat Abd al-Magjid, on the occasion of Egypt's "Revolution Day" on 22 July.

In the messages, Shamir expressed the hope that contacts between the two countries will expand and deepen in the next few months.

Herzog Urges Soviets To Show Leniency

TA241516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has called on the Soviet Union to stop harassing the Jewish culture and aliyah activists, and let them immigrate to Israel. He expressed the hope that bilateral ties will soon be resumed, and that at that point hundreds of thousands of Jews will be permitted to come to Israel. We are not in conflict with the Soviet Union, he said, and we remember how it helped establish the state [at the United Nations]. The president was speaking at a party marking the 52d birthday of Prisoner of Zion Yosef Bigun. Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee Chairman 'Uzi Bar'am said that Bigun's struggle and fight is not just a Jewish symbol, but a symbol of all humanity.

North Lebanese Continue Crossing to South

TA250759 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0745 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Despite the fact that Israel has closed its representation in Beirut, many merchants and residents traveled to southern Lebanon from the north this morning, equipped with permits issued to them recently by the representation. Israeli sources in southern Lebanon said that a new way is now being examined to issue permits to Lebanese residents traveling to the IDF-controlled area in southern Lebanon from the north. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the merchants received special permits valid for visiting their homes south of the Al-'Awwali River as well.

Ministerial Conference on Desert Encroachment To Open
AB241210 Paris AFP in French 0947 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Dakar, 24 Jul (AFP) — The ministerial conference on desert encroachment, which will open in Dakar on Tuesday, could result in the creation of a coordinating committee to fight the advance of the desert.

In fact, the creation of this body has been proposed by the experts from 22 African countries who have been meeting for a week now in the Senegalese capital in order to prepare documents to be submitted to the ministers.

The experts also suggested the preparation of a regional program of cooperation based on the conservation of water, soil, and vegetation. They also expressed the hope that the national strategies for the fight will sufficiently take into account the participation of the populations who, they affrimed, should be the main actors and beneficiaries of the struggle. These strategies should also include afforestation projects as well as hydro-agricultural, pastoral, energy, and socioeconomic projects.

The experts also stressed the need to increase the financial means for the fight against desert encroachment which, they pointed out, is a long and exacting task,

These proposals will be submitted to the ministers whose meeting will be opened on Tuesday by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and will continue until Friday.

ALGERIA

President Sees Foreign Minister, Mauritanian Envoy

LD242109 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid received on Tuesday [24 July] at his residence Dr Taleb Ibrahimi. The foreign affairs minister reported to him about his mission to Mauritania.

President Chadli Bendjedid also received Mr Ould Minnih, the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, special envoy of the Mauritanian head of state, Ould Haydala. The Mauritanian envoy carrying a message for President Chadli arrived in Algiers yesterday afternoon.

President Receives Saudi Interior Minister

LD241427 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] His Excellency the president of Algeria, Chadli Bendjedid, this morning received His Royal Highness Nayif Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of the interior. The meeting was attended by the Algerian Minister of the Interior Mohamed Hadi Yala, the Kingdom's ambassador to Algeria, Muhammad Hasan al-Faqi, and Algeria's Ambassador to the Kingdom, Tijani Haddam. His Royal Highness Prince Nayif arrived in Wahran this morning within the framework of his current visit to Algeria.

France Requests Talks on Custody of Children

LD241348 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Ministry of External Relations has announced that France is asking for talks to be opened between France and Algeria to reach an agreement on child custody rights of divorced French-Algerian parents. The ministry added that it is ready to open such talks immediately.

LIBYA

Palestine Liberation Front Message Received

LD242053 Tripoli JANA in English 1806 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Shawal, 24 July, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution received a hand written message from Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Ghanim, secretary of the Palestine Front of Liberation in which he outlined the present Arab situation and its effects on the Palestinian cause. The message reasserted the determination of the Palestine Front of Liberation to foil the policy of surrender, followed by 'Arafat and his gang, and to escalate the armed struggle against the enemy in Palestine and the occupied territories.

SUDAN

Ministers Explain Islamic Law Action in Kuwait

LD241147 Kuwait KUNA in English 1010 GMT 24 Jul 84

[By Hasan al-Sayigh and 'Abdalla al-Himaydan]

[Text] Kuwait, July 24 (KUNA) — Two Sudanese ministers defended the implementation of Islamic laws in their country saying the move is not related to developments in the troubled southern part of Sudan. Culture and Information Minister Muhammad 'Ali Shammu and Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman also reiterated at a news conference at Kuwait Hilton last night earlier Sudanese accusation that some countries bordering Sudan are working to destabilize it.

Shammu said application of the Islamic shari'a was legislative and modern revolution to get rid of cultural colonization and was a logical outcome of developments which followed the coup attempt against the current regime staged in July 1971. He said after the coup, Sudan began building the Socialist Union as a political institution based on the alliance of forces of working people. Shammu added that the first congress of the Socialist Union issued a national charter which clearly referred to Islam as a part of the national heritage and culture.

Speaking on the new Islamic trends in Sudan, the culture and informational minister noted that President Ja'far Numayri had called for the formation of a specialized committee assigned with abolishing any laws which contravene the Islamic shari'a. Setting up the committee was part of an overall political program the president had proposed upon announcing his candidacy for another term of office. The Sudanese culture and information minister added that the committee undertook a number of studies which led to the legislation of the zakat (alms) law.

During his third term, President Numayri expressed his adherence to the all out political program adopted at the national congress which marked the beginning of the application of Islamic law, Shammu explained. Shammu noted that last September's issuance of Islamic legislations was in fulfillment of President Numayri's promises but that the move came under a deluge of harsh criticism in the Western press, especially the penal code on the ground that it is harsh and inhuman.

He said that some quarters opposed to application of Islamic laws began linking the Sudanese move to the rebellion in the south and other sides hinted that they would stop the economic aid they give to Sudan. Shammu said that there were no outside pressures in the decision to implement Islamic shari'a and added that the Western press criticism aims at toppling the regime, separating the north from the south and impeding economic development plans which gained a boost after the discovery of oil.

He added that all recently introduced laws including the Islamic ones were issued with participation of the head of the state and People's Assembly which represents both the north and the south.

Also speaking at the press conference was Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman who denied a chill in Sudanese relations with

Egypt following reports that Cairo had refused to assist Sudanese forces in putting down the rebellion in the south. Hashim noted that the integration charter between Egypt and Sudan called mainly for bilateral cooperation in foreign policy, security, economic and social affairs and did not refer to any similarity of institutions or legislations.

The foreign minister renewed Sudanese accusations that Libya, Ethiopia and South Yemen were behind the rebellion in south Sudan, he added that the three states are involved in an alliance aimed at harming and destabilizing Sudan. He noted that southern Sudanese dissidents are being trained in camps near the borders with Libya and Ethiopia on using advanced and sophisticated weaponry in the attacks they stage on Sudanese villages and towns.

Following the foreign minister, a host of other Sudanese officials addressed the news conference. Chairman of the Supreme Council for Religious and Awqaf Affairs Dr Yusuf al-Khalifa said it is not a sin under Islamic tenets and law to take a commercial loan if compelled by necessity. Speaking on investment in Sudan, Socialist Union Central Committee member Dr Ouni al-Sharif Qasim said the Khartoum government welcomes foreign investments in Sudan, particularly Arab investment.

He pointed out that the Sudanese Government is revising the investment law so as to make stronger guarantees for foreign capital invested in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Lagu Criticizes Enactment of Islamic Laws

GF241447 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Jul 84 pp 1, 21

[Muhammad Yunis dispatch from Khartoum]

[Text] Joseph Lagu has asserted that Sudan will turn into another Lebanon and that its territorial sovereignty and unity will be threatened. In a statement to *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, the Sudanese second vice president said: Enacting Islamic laws places the country for the first time since independence in an unenviable position. Implementation of these laws will kindle civil war in an unprecedented manner. Lagu noted the south's opposition to the enactment of the Islamic laws. I submitted a memorandum to this effect to President Ja'far Numayri in mid-June and I have not received a reply, he said.

Lagu said that to continue implementing these laws will start the war anew between the north and the south and there is also the great possibility that this will undermine the situation in the north as well, because these laws will sooner or later lead to disturbances between the authorities and the inhabitants of the north. Sudan will inevitably turn into another Lebanon, particularly at a time when there are many parties which will profit from this due to Sudan's location and strategic importance in Africa and in the world, he added.

Lagu said the African countries neighboring Sudan will dismember the south, each according to its potential and historic ambitions, and that Libya and Egypt will also annex parts of the north in one way or another, whether under the pretext of allaying the situation or under the cover of defending Sudan.

The Sudanese second vice president asserted that there are disturbances and problems in the south. These disturbances will worsen in the future and fighting will escalate and expand, he added. He said that revoking the order to enact Islamic shari'a will be the only solution to avoiding more bloodshed. The abidance of the Addis Ababa Agreement signed in 1972 has proven that it is possible for the north and the south to coexist as a united Sudan, although the south is divided into three provinces.

On his readiness to mediate between his government and the rebel leaders in the south, Lagu said: I am ready to do this because some rebel leaders were under my command in the past and some are linked with me by friendship. But such a decision must be issued by President Numayri, he added.

In reply to a question about his possible return to lead the rebellion in the south, Lagu said: Everything is left to the future.

TUNISIA

Premier on Egypt's Return, Internal Situation

GF241415 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 24 Jul (WAKH) — In in an interview published in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper *AS-SIYASAH*, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, praised his country's relations with the GCC countries in all fields.

Mzali supported the idea of Egypt's return to the Arab ranks. He noted that Egypt's absence is a loss of power. Nevertheless, we have our principles. We adopted the decision to politically boycott Egypt at the Baghdad summit and we are commited to it. Summit resolutions cannot be revoked except by the resolutions of another summit. A unilateral decision by a party to deal with Egypt will only serve to widen the gap among Arab brothers, he said.

On whether the Arab League's headquarters will be moved from Tunisia to Egypt, if Egypt returns to the Arab ranks, Mzali said: This has nothing to do with Egypt's return to the Arab League, and this also should be decided upon in an Arab summit.

On the internal situation in Tunisia and on what is being rumored as a power struggle, the Tunisian prime minister said: There are power struggles going on in all countries and this is a known fact. Mzali denied that foreign parties were behind recent incidents in Tunisia. Some parties probably tried to exploit the situation, but I do not believe there were foreign parties involved, he said.

ETHIOPIA

Communique on Visit of Bulgaria's Filipov

For the Sofia *RABOTNICHESKO DELO* version of the communique on the visit of Bulgarian Premier Grisha Filipov, see the Bulgaria section of the 24 July Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

SOMALIA

Barre Holds Private Talks With Kenya's Moi

EA241643 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] After opening official talks at the People's Hall here in Mogadishu, President of the Republic of Kenya Mr Daniel arap Moi and SDR [Somali Democratic Republic] President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre held private talks at Villa Somalia.

The SDR minister for information and national guidance, Challe Colonel Mohamed Omar Jess, briefing reporters from SONNA [Somali National News Agency], Radio Mogadishu, and other local and foreign journalists, said that the two leaders discussed questions concerning the two countries' interests and strengthening relations between the two countries, which are daily growing stronger.

Challe Col Mohamed Omar Jess, commenting on the talks, said that the two sides expressed the need to promote political, economic, and cultural cooperation for the benefit of the interests of the two peoples and nations of the SDR and the Republic of Kenya.

'Big Explosion' Reported in Hargeysa 19 July

EA241148 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Reports from Hargeysa say that on 19 July a very big explosion occurred at the regional headquarters of the so-called party of the Mogadishu regime. The reports add that the building and equipment inside it were extensively damaged.

The reports go on to say that of late explosions have proliferated in Hargeysa town and the fascist regime of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre had started arresting people indiscriminately. Many students, workers, and leading businessmen are already languishing in the torture chambers of the Mogadishu regime.

TANZANIA

Briefs

Loan for Dodoma Projects — Dar es Salaam — The government has secured a loan of 170,000,000 shillings from Zimbabwe for the purchase of building equipment for Dodoma, the new capital. Winding up debate for his ministry's 1984/85 estimates, the minister of state in the presidents office responsible for capital development, Ndugu Samuel Sitta, said the equipment would be used for building houses and uncompleted projects. The minister said during the 1984/85 fiscal year, his ministry would ensure that electricity and water services are made available to reduce the shortage of services which impaired construction of the new capital. He said some 10,000,000 shillings has been set aside for the rehabilitation of a water pumping station at Makutopura. He added that the new pump would supply an estimated 120,000 people with water. He assured the house that the 1986/87 budget session would be held in the new capital because by then it would have all the necessary facilities and services such as power and water. [Text] [Dar es Salaam External Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 84 EA]

CHAD

President Habre Reshuffles Cabinet 24 July

AB241955 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Decree issued by the Presidency of the Republic reshuffling the cabinet on 24 July 1984 in Ndjamena — read by (Yusouf Sidi Koudouni), title not given]

[Text] Republic of Chad, Presidency of the Republic, decree on the cabinet reshuffle:

The president of the Republic, head of state, and president of the Council of Ministers decrees in accordance with the Fundamental Act of the Republic, Decree No. 025/TEE/7 Jun/82 of 18 October 1982 touching on the publication of the Fundamental Act of the Republic:

Article 1:

The following persons have been appointed to the following ministries:

Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development
Djidingar Dono Ngardoum
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Lassou Gouara
Minister of Interior and Administrative Reform
Brahim Mahamat Idio
Minister of National Education
Dr Abba Sidick
Minister of Finance and Equipment
Elie Romba
Minister of Transport
Lol Mahamat Choua
Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals
Rotouang Yoma
Minister of Animal and Water Resources
Tahar Guinassou
Minister of Plan and National Reconstruction
Joseph Yodeyman
Minister of Economy and Commerce
Adoum Moussa Seif
Minister of Public Health
Koibla Djimasta
Minister of Public Works, Mines, and Geology
Moussa Kadam
Minister of Social Affairs and Women's Advancement
Mrs Fatime Kimto
Minister of Public Service
Hassan Djamous
Minister of Labor, Employment, and Vocational Training
Oudalbaye Naham
Minister of Natural Calamities
Taher Abdeldjalil
Minister of Posts and Telecommunication
Assileck Halata
Minister of Tourism, Water Resources, and Forestry
Ali Djalbor Diar
Minister Delegate to the Presidency in Charge of Information
Soumaila Mahamat
Minister Delegate to the Presidency in Charge of National Defence, Veterans' Affairs, and War Victims
Captain Ndilnodji
Minister Attached to the Presidency of the Republic
Ouang-Monching)
Secretary of State to the Presidency in Charge of General Inspectorate and State Control
(Barmenguir Sozirangar Limomba)
Secretary of State for Agriculture and Rural Development
Salet Djiguir
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Korom Hamet
Secretary of State for the Interior and Administrative Reform
(Ngartma Mbambikep)
Secretary of State for National Education
(Djinalde Mbailaoule)
Secretary of State for Finance and Equipment
Youssouf Ramadan
Secretary of State for Plan and National Reconstruction
Dr Brahim (Taifou)
Secretary of State for Economy and Commerce
Amos Raoulengar
Secretary of State for Public Health
(Harouna Djodif)
Secretary of State of Natural Calamities
Nadji Yamarke
Secretary General of the Government
Youssouf Sidi Sougoumi
Deputy Secretary General of the Government
(Doran Nyiouf)

Article 2: The secretary general of the government and his deputy take part in the Council of Ministers as full members.

Article 3: The present decree, which goes into effect on the date of signature, will be published in the Republic's official journal and will be published wherever necessary.

Issued in Ndjamena on 24 July 1984

[Signed] Hissein Habre

Government Holds Talks With Red Commandos in South

AB241510 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Serious moves have begun in Sahr in connection with national reconciliation efforts in the south of the country. This follows a visit to (Moursalak) and Sounga by a delegation led by the minister of state for agriculture and rural development, Djidingar Dono Ngardoum. The government delegation also includes members of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR] and of the National Consultative Council.

The serious matters have begun, as I told you earlier. As a matter of fact, after 2 days of consultations in these two subprefectures of the Moyen-Chari, the delegation representing President Hissein Habre held a working session in the capital of the Moyen-Chari with the major parties concerned, namely the Codos Rouges [Red Commando units] of the Moyen-Chari and the responsible officials of the prefecture.

This summit meeting took place behind closed doors last Friday in the Moyen-Chari prefecture hall. According to Ndoasingar of the Sahr radio, the purpose of the meeting was to find ways and means to facilitate the success of the mission of Minister Ngardoum, that is to achieve definitive peace and concord in the south in general and in the Moyen-Chari in particular.

Peace, unity, national reconciliation, independence, sovereignty, and the safeguarding of our territorial integrity were the keywords of the members of the government delegation and of civilian and military officials of the Moyen-Chari. According to our correspondent in Sahr, these sacred principles of the Third Republic government are also those of the vast majority of the people. Our correspondent also noted that the Chadian people have been looking forward to the complete realization of the national reconciliation policy championed by the new government and the UNIR. Ndoasingar further said that in (Moursalak) and in Sounga the government delegation made many substantive contacts with elements of the Moyen-Chari Red Commando units.

While we have no details on the Sahr talks because they were held in camera, we have some details on the (Moursalak) and Sounga meetings with the Red Commando. As a matter of fact, last Wednesday morning and evening, the government delegation met elements of the Red Commando Unit I at (Moursalak). Of course the meeting took place in the presence of local administrative, political, and military authorities of the Moyen-Chari.

During these two working sessions, the talks centered on the achievement of peace. The participants examined ways of restoring peace to Chad and integrating Codo elements into the Chadian national Armed Forces. The government delegation pledged the government's genuine desire and President Habre's readiness to extend a hand to all the brothers now in military or political opposition at home or abroad. This is aimed at restoring a definitive, lasting peace all over the Chadian territory, as well as strengthening the country's unity, for the great battle ahead, Chadian patriots, is the one against Libyan invaders.

It is believed that the Codo leaders were not indifferent to these sensible observations. At any rate, those at (Moursalak) took note of the intentions of the Third Republic authorities. They also made some observations. Among these observations, there are those concerning the nonfulfillment of some of the conditions they laid down during previous meetings with the members of the government delegation, especially the meeting held with the same minister of state during his 6-month tour of the south.

In spite of these observations, the talks took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding since each side desired a negotiated settlement to our country's tragedy. In this connection, the Red Codo suggested that the government delegation should meet with all Codo units of the Moyen-Chari at the same time in order to ensure that all decisions that are made are not rejected by any group. As was expected, the government delegation found no objection to the suggestion. The venue for this major meeting will be Danamaji.

As the Radio Chad correspondent pointed out, this is an issue that needs close attention. For our part, we cannot help expressing our satisfaction over the smooth agricultural season in the (Moursalak) subprefecture in the fields of food crops as well as cash crops.

Talks Continue

AB242155 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The Chadian Government has made national reconciliation the very foundation of its policy. As a matter of fact, national reconciliation, unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity are the major preoccupation of the government of the Third Republic and of the National Union for Independence and Revolution as well as the National Consultative Council.

Concerning the latest mission of Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development Ngardoum in the south of the country, one of our correspondents, Valentin Ndoasingar of Sahr radio, has reported that the meeting scheduled to take place at Danamaii, 50 km from Sahr, eventually began in the capital of the Moyen-Chari. It is attended by the representatives of the various Red Commando Units.

In fact, the members of the government and the Red Commando delegations met precisely at the Sahr town hall yesterday. The deliberations went on all day long and resumed this morning at the same venue.

Present at the session this morning were our Red Commando brothers, officials from Ndjamena, and local political, administrative, and military authorities.

Habre Sends Message to CAR's Kolingba

AB241016 Paris AFP in French 0943 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Bangui, 24 Jul (AFP) — Soumaila Mahamat, Chadian minister delegate to the presidency in charge of information, has delivered a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre to CAR President General Andre Kolingba, it was learned on Tuesday in Bangui.

President Hissein Habre's envoy, it was said, did not give details concerning the contents of the message or the topics of his discussions with President Kolingba.

Soumaila Mahamat however stressed that the failure of the Lagos and Addis Ababa meetings on Chad was attributable to "foreign opposition and interference."

The information minister finally affirmed that despite the difficulties facing the settlement of the Chadian problem, the Ndjamena government would continue its efforts in favor of peace in Chad.

Finance Minister Takes Habre Message to Diouf

AB242150 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Finance Minister Eli Roumba left Ndjamena today for Dakar where he will convey President Habre's message to his Senegalese counterpart, Abdou Diouf. Mr Roumba made no statement before his departure, but it is believed that the message falls within the framework of the regular contacts which the Chadian authorities maintain with various African leaders. The situation of permanent war imposed on our country by Libya and the efforts to find ways and means to put an end to this situation by ensuring the holding of the conference on national reconciliation among Chadians undoubtedly account for the trip.

Though the Brazzaville conference constitutes the essential issue during contacts between the Chadian capital and other African capitals, the dismantling of the FAN and the Frolinat along with the creation of the National Union for Independence and Revolution will be another priority topic during this mission.

ZAIRE

Mobutu To Give Priority to Economic Recovery

AB241345 Paris AFP in French 1150 GMT 24 Jul 84

[By Jean-Eude Barbier]

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 24 Jul (AFP) — During his new 7-year mandate, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko — the sole candidate for the forthcoming presidential elections of 28 and 29 July — intends to give "absolute" priority to the implementation of the Zairian financial and economic recovery plan launched some months ago with the assistance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it was announced from an authorized source in Kinshasa.

Mr Mobutu, who is running for a third presidential mandate, obtained at the end of 1983 the support of the IMF to relaunch Zaire's "economic apparatus" and for the rescheduling of the external debt of the state. This debt now amounts to about $5 billion ($1 equals Fr 8.8) and places Zaire in the sixth position among the most indebted African countries (behind Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Nigeria), informed sources have stressed. The IMF's support will consist of the injection of $350 million into the Zairian financial system over a period of 15 months. However, the installment payment of this amount, which actually started in January 1984, depends on "certain performance criteria" concerning particularly budgeted expenditures and inflation. It seems, however, that the policy of austerity which the regime of President Mobutu has been applying for some time now is giving "every satisfaction" to the IMF experts, various informed sources in Kinshasa have asserted.

Observers have pointed out that in less than 1 year, the Zairian Government — in accordance with the "recommendations" of the international body — has abolished the fixed parity of the Zairian currency in relation to the DTS (special drawing right), set up a free exchange system — which now makes it possible for the national currency to fluctuate in accordance with its true value — and thus dismantled the parallel financial mechanisms which the state was not in a position to control.

The Zairian authorities have also decided upon a greater liberalization of their economy, reviewed their customs tariffs, multiplied their warnings against corruption, called on the state companies to be more rigorous in their management, and reduced the budgeted recurrent expenditures as much as possible.

One of the Zairian Government's objectives for 1984 is to limit the budget deficit to 1 percent of the gross national product (against 2 percent for 1983). According to several sources, the results of the first quarter have been described as "encouraging" since the state's revenues and expenditures were respectively more and less than the estimates. According to experts, inflation — which surpassed the 100 percent limit in 1983 — should decrease considerably by the end of the year. The limit set by the IMF is 40 percent.

Members Asked To Create ECOWAS Secretariats

AB240938 Lagos NAN in English 0930 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 23 (NAN) — The executive secretary of ECOWAS, Dr Aboubakar Ouattara, today in Lagos said that member-states of ECOWAS had been asked to establish ECOWAS secretariats at the national level to monitor the affairs of the organisation.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Ouattara said that the implementation of ECOWAS programmes had been "rather slow" at the national level, adding that it had been an impediment to the implementation of projects.

On the achievement of ECOWAS, Dr Ouattara said that the organisation's telecommunications project was progressing steadily and would be completed by 1986, and that the insurance scheme would take off by January 1985. He appealed to the citizens of member-states to be patient over the pace of implementation of the community's programmes, adding that rushing the programmes would jeopardise the objectives of the organisation.

The executive secretary said that expectations of the people in the sub-region "have been very high," pointing out that although this was fair, "we have observed that too many people are expecting too much too soon." Dr Ouattara said that it was not easy to get 16 countries to agree and move on the same issue at the same pace. He said that the existence in West Africa of a large number of intergovernmental institutions which had the same objectives with ECOWAS was a major problem. He, however, said that a study on rationalisation of objectives had been completed and that recommendations would be submitted in November at the next meeting of the council of ministers.

Answering questions on political problems in the sub-region, Dr Ouattara said that there had been improvements in relations among member states. He said that this was an indication of the way the countries saw "the crucial role that the ECOWAS will play in our collective effort to develop." (NAN)

GHANA

Rawlings Makes Official Visit to Cuba

For reportage on the visit to Cuba by Chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, see the Cuba section of the 24 July Latin America *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

PNDC's Tawiah Meets With Algerian Envoy

AB240952 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Mr Ebow Tawiah, has called for frequent consultations among African leaders so that they can take an effective stand on issues which threaten to divide Africa. Mr Ebow Tawiah made the appeal during discussions with the Algerian ambassador in Ghana, Mr (Abdelhamid Semichi) when he paid a courtesy call on him in his office at the Castle Osu. He referred particularly to the struggle in South Africa and the conflict in Chad and Western Sahara which, he said, are being used to break the African front.

Mr Ebow Tawiah said African leaders should not allow problems which could be solved the African way to cause major differences among them and thereby threaten the quest for African unity. He expressed regret about the individualistic attitude of some African leaders in solving the continent's problems. Mr Ebow Tawiah accused the developed countries of captalizing on African economic problems to divide the continent.

For his part, Mr (Semichi) noted that conditions set for cooperation with Africa by most developed countries are all accompanied by political demands. He therefore called on African countries to rely mostly on themselves to solve their problem.

The two men expressed satisfaction at the relations and level of cooperation between their two countries. They also pledged their governments' preparedness to continue to consult each other on matters of mutual interests so that their views on African and international matters would continue to be identical.

GUINEA

Soviets Donate 150 Tons of Fish 23 July

AB241430 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union offered this Monday, 23 July, 150 tons of fish to Guinea. The ceremony took place at the Conakry harbor in the presence of several dignitaries.

The Guinean side was represented by the minister of fishing and animal husbandry, the minister of internal trade, and the minister of state control.

The Soviet side was represented by the adviser at the Russian Embassy in Conakry accompanied by his close collaborators as well as the general manager of the refrigeration warehouses at the harbor and the general manager of the maritime fishing company.

Cooperation between Guinea and the Soviet Union in the field of fishing started many years ago. The first fishing agreement was signed between Guinea and the Soviet Union in February 1966. Taking into account the experience acquired in the implementation of the 1966 agreement, the two sides signed a new intergovernmental fishing agreement in 1981.

Today's gift of 150 tons of fish valued at 4.5 million sylis is not included in the contract. It should be recalled that the Guinea-USSR joint commission on fishing meets annually to examine bilateral cooperation problems. In 1984 Soviet fishermen have already delivered more than 5,700 tons of fish.

The next Soviet-Guinea joint cooperation commission for maritime fishing will meet in Conakry in October of this year.

LIBERIA

Doe To Be Formally Inducted 25 July

AB242120 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Liberian leader, Commander in Chief Dr Samuel K. Doe, will be formally inducted into office tomorrow, Wednesday, as president of the National Interim Assembly at the (?Centenary) Pavillion in Monrovia. The ceremony takes place at 1100 [GMT]. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this will be followed by the commissioning of the assembly's vice president, Dr Harold Moniba, as well as members of the National Interim Assembly at the capitol building by Dr Doe. The minister of foreign affairs is inviting government officials and the diplomatic corps to attend this ceremony.

Western Media Reaction to PRC Dissolution Reported

AB242140 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Western media have widely acclaimed the Liberian Government's move in dissolving the People's Redemption Council and replacing it by a national interim assembly to assist in returning the country to civilian rule in January 1986. The Liberian press bureau in Britain said three leading newspapers in London, the *TIMES, GUARDIAN,* and *TELEGRAPH,* described the move as the first bold step toward a return to civilian rule following the national referendum of 3 July which endorsed a new constitution for Liberia.

In the United States, top newspapers including *THE WASH INGTON POST* also acclaimed the move. The Liberian Information Bureau said Liberians living in the United States also favored the move.

NIGERIA

FMG Announces Three New Decrees 24 July

AB241800 Lagos NAN in English 1750 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 24 (NAN) — Three more decrees were promulgated in Lagos today, bringing to 22 the number of decrees so far promulgated by the Federal Military Government. They are the Special Tribunal (miscellaneous offences) Decree, the Robbery and Firearms (special provisions) (amendment) Decree and the Counterfeit Currency (special provisions) Decree.

The Special Tribunal (miscellaneous offences) Decree, otherwise known as Decree No 20, creates a number of offences [as received] and sets up a tribunal for the trial of such offences. The offences include arson of public buildings, damage to public property, tampering with oil pipelines, telephone wires and postal matters, and unlawful exporation of minerals. Others are destruction of highways, forging and altering negotiable instruments, unlawful exportation of foodstuff, selling prohibited goods, dealing in cocaine, cheating at examinations and unlawful dealing in petroleum products.

Under the decree, any person convicted of willfully or maliciously setting fire to a public building or property shall be sentenced to death by firing squad. The decree also stipulated death by firing squad for any person found guilty of tampering with oil pipelines, electric and telephone cables as well as importing or exporting mineral oil or mineral ore. According to the decree, "Any person who deals with, sells, buys, exposes or offers for sale, smokes, drinks, or inhales or induces any person to so deal with the drug popularly known as cocaine or any such similar drug shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to suffer death by firing squad."

The decree also provides a 21 year imprisonment for any person found guilty of cheating at an examination. The decree, however, exempts any person who has not attained the age of 17 years from being punished under the provision relating to cheating at an examination.

According to the decree, any corporate body found to have been directly or indirectly involved in committing an offence under the decree, would be wound up [as received] and all its assets forfeited to the Federal Military Government.

Any sentence passed under the decree shall be subject to confirmation by the Supreme Military Council.

Cited as Decree No 21, the Robbery and Firearms (special provisions) (amendment) Decree 1984 amends the Robbery and Firearms Special Provisions Decree to enable the solicitor-general of a state, where there is no attorney-general, to prosecute offences. It also enables tribunals set up under the decree to have jurisdiction over all armed robbery cases except those that have been partly heard.

The amendment transfers all cases pending before the high court of a state to the appropriate tribunal, and upon such transfer, the proceedings shall be deemed to have been filed in accordance with the provisions of the decree. The decree takes effect from Dec 31, 1983.

Known as the Counterfeit Currency (special provisions) Decree, Decree No 22 prescribes the death penalty for anyone found guilty of making or counterfeiting the naira or any foreign currency. It prescribes a similar penalty for any person convicted of making or being in possession of implements for making or counterfeiting currency. The decree further stipulates the death penalty for any person who aids, counsels, abets or procures any other person to commit an offence under the decree. It states that, where the offence committed by a corporate body and attributable to connivance or neglect on the part of a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the corporate body, that person as well as the corporate body shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence. On conviction, the decree states, the corporate body shall be wound up and all its assets forfeited to the Federal Military Government.

The decree enables any person to apprehend anyone found committing an offence under the decree, and to take him to any member of the armed forces or a police officer. It also provides penalties for uttering [as received] and being in possession of counterfeit currency or coin. It empowers the head of the Federal

Military Government to constitute (?for state) or states, a tribunal to be known as the Currency Offences Tribunal.

Gambari Comments on Extradition of Dikko, Others

AB242142 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahim Gambari announced today that his country wanted, first of all, to obtain the extradition of Umaru Dikko before asking for that of the other Nigerian politicians living in Great Britain. Mr Gambari stressed that Dikko's case would be given priority because the Federal Military Government in Lagos considers the former minister as its number one enemy.

Gambari Comments on Country's Refugee Situation

AB241725 Paris AFP in English 1449 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 24 (AFP) — One in every 100 of Africa's refugees was in Nigeria, the government-owned *DAILY TIMES* newspaper reported today, quoting External Affairs Minister Ibrahim Gambari.

This amounts to some 50,000 people, giving Nigeria one of the greatest concentrations of refugees in the world. War-displaced Chadians topped the list, Mr Gambari said.

The minister was commenting on the recent International Conference on Assistance for Refugees in Africa (ICARA) in Geneva. At the conference Nigeria asked the United Nations high commissioner for refugees to set up a camp and farm, he said.

Nigeria's delegation was also briefed on how its three million naira (3.9 million dollars) donation to ICARA was spent, Mr Gambari said.

GUARDIAN Calls for Speedy Action on Detainees

AB241015 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 84

[From the press review]

[Text] The *GUARDIAN* writes on the recent release of some political detainees by the Federal Government. The paper notes that those released have been cleared of fraud by the investigating panel. The *GUARDIAN* urges the panel to speedily examine other detainees who are now standing trial.

'Commercialization' of Prison Farms Discussed

AB242000 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] A 2-day meeting of officers charged with prison farms and poultry establishments throughout the federation opens today in Lagos. The meeting, which will be formally opened by the minister of internal affairs, Brigadier Mohammed Magoro, will center on the commercialization of prison farms and their contribution to national food production. It will also discuss the role of the Prison Department in the Federal Military Government efforts towards national self-sufficiency in food production.

Minister on Prison Farm Development

AB242105 Paris AFP in English 1442 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Lagos, July 24 (AFP) — Prisoners in Nigeria must help to offset the "huge" cost of keeping them, Internal Affairs Minister Brigadier Mohammed Magoro has said.

He told the annual conference of prison agricultural officers Monday that Nigeria spends some 70 million naira (91 million dollars) yearly to feed its estimated 50,000 prisoners.

And he warned that prison inmates must now bear part of this expenditure by contributing to Nigeria's agricultural development.

"The present administration will not commit scarce public funds to feeding elements who offended society, without positive contributions from such elements", he said.

The minister said government had set aside about 500,000 naira (650,000 dollars) this year for the developement of prison farms.

The farms would generate revenue for government as well as provide prisoners with modern farming techniques, he said.

Lack of Funds, Parts Hamper Radio Benue Broadcasting

AB241216 Lagos NAN in English 1151 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Makurdi, July 24 (NAN) — Programme transmissions from Radio Benue has been intermittent for some weeks now because its main transmitter has been out of order, the general manager of the corporation, Mr Imbishi Iyoryisa, said.

Mr Iyoryisa told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that most of the transmitter's spare parts which needed replacement could not be replaced because of lack funds as well as difficulties in procuring foreign exchange and letters of credit.

Mr Iyoryisa said that the corporation would need at least 100,000 naira to purchase the required parts. According to the general manager, the corporation had been relying on money realised from commercials to run the organisation.

The general manager added that the earnings from commercial activities had dropped by about 80 percent because of the economic slump.

The general manager said that the technical department of corporation is doing everything possible to put the station on the air. Meanwhile the FM transmitters at Apir near Makurdi, which were meant to distribute signal to the corporation's two out-stations at Ayangba and Katsina Ala, have broken down completely, Mr Iyoryisa said...

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

President Supports Angola, Opposes RSA Policies

MB250823 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] President Pinto da Costa of Sao Tome and Principe has said that he supported all actions carried out by the People's Republic of Angola in favor of the establishment of a climate of peace and security in southern Africa.

In a recent ANGOP interview, the head of state of Sao Tome and Principe emphasized that there could be no solution to the problems of southern African without the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from the Angolan territory first.

We support the struggle of the Angolan people against South African aggression and for the elimination of puppet gangsters who with assistance from abroad try to destabilize Angola, President Pinto da Costa also said.

In the interview given on the occasion of the national day of Sao Tome and Principe, President Pinto da Costa spoke about various issues connected with Sao Tome and Principe.

In addition, (Ermenegildo de Sousa), our country's charge d'affaires in Sao Tome and Principe, last weekend spoke in favor of increased international assistance in various fields for that friendly country which is presently facing unprecedented economic difficulties.

On future cooperation between the two states, the Angolan diplomat pointed out that it was consistent with advantageous pledges undertaken in the recent joint meeting.

If Angola can rapidly achieve the peace it desires and for which it fights, it will be in better condition to help minimize the economic difficulties of Sao Tome and Principe through the cooperation existing between the two countries, (Ermenegildo de Sousa) pointed out.

Speaking to the ANGOP correspondent, our country's charge d'affaires in Sao Tome and Principe hailed the Sao Tome authorities' concern and their efforts to improve the people's social conditions.

TOGO

Briefs

Outgoing Egyptian Ambassador — The Togolese minister of interior, Kpotivi Lacle, yesterday evening hosted a dinner in honor of the outgoing Egyptian ambassador to Togo, Mr (Shaykh Baya) , who is leaving our country after a 2-year mission. [Summary][Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 24 Jul 84 AB]

UPPER VOLTA

Assassination Attempt Wounds Senior Army Officer

AB251218 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 25 July 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, July 25 (AFP) — The deputy chief of staff of Upper Volta's armed forces, Major Amadou Sawadogo, was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt last week, the government daily *SIDWAYA* reported.

The paper said that Major Sawodogo, wounded in the head and wrist by a sub-machine gun last Wednesday night, was flown to Paris, where he underwent an emergency operation, *SIDWAYA* said. The report said that the operation was successful, but informed sources here said that he was still in an "extremely critical" condition in Paris's Val de Grace hospital.

SIDWAYA gave no details of the attack, or the motives or identity of those responsible. The government had made no mention of the incident.

The paper said only that a covered truck had cut in front of Major Sawadogo's car during a drive through an Ouagadougou suburb and the truck's occupants had opened fire with Russian-made Kalishnikov automatic rifles.

The attack against Major Sawagodo, top aide to Armed Forces chief Jean-Baptiste Lingani and a little known but important military figure, was the first such incident in Upper Volta since the current regime seized power in August, 1983.

SIDAWAYA said the attack was aimed at discrediting the ruling National Revolutionary Council on the eve of celebrations marking its first anniversary in power.

Soviet Youth Official Visits, Comments

AB231710 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Andre (Moiseyev), who is representing Soviet youth organizations, is visiting our country. He has met various officials of the Department of Youth and Sports. He spoke to (Gbodifoi) Bazie on the aim of his visit and his meeting with the different officials.

[Begin (Moiseyev) recording, in French] I was invited here by the Ministry of Youth and Sports to discuss the possibility of establishing official bilateral contacts between the Soviet and Upper Voltan youth and their organizations. This therefore is the first contact by officials of youth organizations of the two countries. I have been received by the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and also by the director of youth affairs.

This visit is also aimed at discussing with officials of Upper Voltan youth organizations preparations for the 12th World Youth and Students' Festival which will take place in Moscow from 25 July to 3 August 1985. I am very satisfied with the discussions held so far with representatives of Upper Voltan authorities. We have decided to continue the contacts established

between the Upper Voltan and Soviet youth. I have been briefed on activities of the youth organizations — pioneers, scouts — in Upper Volta and on women's movements in your country.

On my part, I told them about how the Soviet youth are organized. There are 46 youth organizations in all with its vanguard and the only political organization, the Komsomol, or the Union of the Communist-Leninist Youth of the USSR. We also exchanged views on the possibility of each country preparing at home the 12th World Youth and Students' Festival to take place in Moscow. The decision on the venue and date was made by the organizing committee of this festival during its meeting in Havana in early February. Many youth organizations from different countries as well as international, national, and regional youth groups will be participating in the festival. [end recording]

RSA-SWAPO Talks on Namibia in Cape Verde

Van Niekerk Leaves for Talks

MB250650 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0645 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Windhoek, July 25, SAPA — South African officials and SWAPO representatives are holding talks in the Cape Verde today to discuss a cessation of hostilities in SWA/Namibia. The administrator-general of SWA/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, had already left Windhoek to attend the meeting, a spokesman for his office said.

It is understood the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, may be issuing a statement in Pretoria on the meeting.

The spokesman for Dr van Niekerk's office told SAPA on inquiry this morning that "the administrator-general will be in Cape Verde today for the talks with SWAPO to discuss the possibility of a cessation of hostilities in SWA."

According to a report from the United Nations, the South African ambassador to the UN, Mr Kurt von Schirnding, has already informed the world body's secretary-general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, of the proposed meeting in Cape Verde today.

South African diplomatic sources at the UN were reported as saying that today's meeting was part of an ongoing process to resolve the SWA/Namibian dispute.

The meeting follows abortive talks in Lusaka in mid-May, which were attended by delegations of SWAPO and the SWA/Namibian multiparty conference. The meeting was chaired by Dr van Niekerk and Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda.

Pik Botha Confirms Talks

MB250726 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0715 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Pretoria, July 25, SAPA — The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has confirmed in Pretoria that talks will be held in the Cape Verde Islands today between the administrator-general of SWA/Namibia and SWAPO.

"The talks will explore the possibility of bringing about a cessation of violent and armed activitiues in SWA/Namibia," he said in a statement in Pretoria.

The talks were in keeping with the South African Government's position that it had no objection to discussions between the administrator-general, Dr Willie van Niekerk, and any political party in the territory.

Mr Botha added in his brief statement that it was "not considered appropriate to comment any further on the talks at this stage."

Nujoma in Cape Verde

NC250836 Paris AFP in English 0804 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Lisbon, July 25 (AFP) — Southwest Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) leader Sam Nujoma is in the Cape Verde Islands, where the South African Government said today it had started talks with SWAPO, the Portuguese news agency ANGOP [as received] reported.

The agency said that Mr Nujoma had talks yesterday with Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira on the situation in Namibia and southern Africa as a whole.

SWAPO has been fighting an 18-year guerrilla war for the independence of Namibia from South Africa.

ANGOLA

MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee Meeting

MB241936 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee has been holding an extraordinary session at the Futungo de Belas in Luanda since this morning under the leadership of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party.

The meeting, which is going to end today, is being attended by the majority of the members of the party's Central Committee, and is supposed to analyze issues linked to the socioeconomic and politico-military development of Angola. We recall that this is not the first meeting to study the military situation in Angola and also to study the implementation of the UN Resolution 435/78 and the Cuban withdrawal.

Commentary Refutes 'Rumors' of Corrupt Officials

MB241826 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Station commentary: "Rumor and Slander, Weapons of Reaction"]

[Text] Imperialism and its lackeys and puppets do not lay down their arms. Meanwhile internal reaction is multiplying its maneuvers and actions to destabilize the social order established in the People's Republic of Angola. Economic sabotage, slander, and rumor replace the conventional weapons which were not enough for the South African Army and the mercenaries in its service to destroy the Angolan revolution and force our people to deviate from the glorious task of constructing socialism in the motherland of Augostinho Neto.

The already famous Kanaga case, which is being dealt with by the People's Revolutionary Tribunal, has given internal reaction and the propaganda media of the international imperialism an excellent opportunity to unleash an intensive campaign of slander and rumor which has borne fruit due to the support found in some sectors of the petite bourgeoisie and by the doubts raised in the minds of those who have not yet achieved a reasonable political

and ideological attitude. Following the classical principle of divide and rule outlined by the manuals of counterrevolution, the waves of rumors and slander concerning the illicit diamond trafficking and illegal exchange of foreign currency aims at involving in that criminal activity the names of some leaders with the clear objective of discrediting the party and state leadership and to undermine the faith of the working classes in the democratic institutions which lead the Angolan revolutionary process.

They intend with slander and rumor to falsely allege protectionism and impunities in order to discredit the defense and security bodies, undermine the credibility of the judicial system, and lastly to demolish and destroy the revolution. A rumor is heard and it multiplies with the speed of light, slanders are invented and they are spread with the greatest irrresponsibility.

In absence of evidence, one hears the old aphorism: "Where there is smoke, there is fire." How many among us have not heard on city street corners, read in cheap newspapers published in capitalist Europe, or heard on radio stations working for imperialism baseless news reports that such and such leader is one of the diamond traffickers, that so and so person is deeply involved in the illegal exchange of money and currency, and that a high-ranking official has bank accounts in Switzerland and houses in Lisbon, but these people are not on trial because they are untouchable?

Imperialism and internal reaction want with these slanders and rumors to persuade our people and international public opinion that justice in the People's Republic of Angola is a farce and that our revolution only benefits a so-called cast of leaders to the detriment of the interests of the working classes. The inevitable mistake or an injustice unpunished are used by internal reaction to generalize to party and state dimensions situations that only exist in the criminal imagination of the agents and propagators of the rumor and slander.

The strategy is old and objectives are clear. Economic sabotage and rumor aimed at creating a gap between the leadership of the party and the people undermine the national unity and destroy the revolution. But opposed to these are unmistakeable facts that the serene and firm justice to which all those who commit crimes are subjected are included in the People's Republic of Angola's laws, without partiality, protectionism, or impunities for anyone, worker, peasant, intellectual, official, or leader.

This is the way that has guided the revolutionary justice in the People's Republic of Angola and is going to be followed against everything and everyone in the defense of the legitimate interests of the workers and peasants.

The struggle continues! Victory is certain!

Assembly Agriculture Commission Meets in Luanda

MB250639 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The People's Assembly Commission for Agriculture, Home Trade, and Fisheries has held a meeting in Luanda to examine issues in its field of action. During the meeting, the commission examined activities carried out by the various sectors of the commission in the first half of this year and assigned tasks for the second half. The deputies of the People's Assembly commission recommended the full implementation of the guidelines and decisions adopted under the general emergency plans, particularly with regard to the securing of foodstuffs for supply to the people.

On the basis of reports presented by the various sectors, the commission observed some shortcomings and accordingly recommended that the central structures become more involved in the implementation of plans and in the rigorous control of the implementation of the tasks laid down.

The commission also recommended that members of the Commission for Agriculture, Home Trade, and Fisheries participate in the consultative councils of ministries and supply commissions. This proposal has been submitted to the People's Assembly for approval.

LESOTHO

National Assembly Expels BDA Leader Molapo

MB241733 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Lesotho National Assembly this afternoon adopted the recommendation of the select committee of privileges of members of the National Assembly calling for the expulsion of Mr C.D. Molapo and Mr Poko Chaulane from the National Assembly until its dissolution. The step follows the move which was tabled by the minister of finance, Honorable K.T.J. Rakhetla, who is also chairman of the select committee of privileges, calling for the adoption of the report of the committee.

The committee had found that, early this year, Messrs C.D. Molapo and Chaulane had traveled to Pretoria at the expense of the South African Government. On arrival in Pretoria, they had been received by the South African officials who took them to the venue of dicussion. The committee found that there had been talks on the formation of bodies described as the anticommunist league. This idea was rejected by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, who instead suggested the formation of the Basotho Democratic Alliance, which would replace the present Lesotho Government.

Mr Botha is reported to have suggested that this should be done quickly.

Foreign Minister Comments

MB241758 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, told the National Assembly today that Basotho had every right to differ politically, but they should never allow themselves to be used as agents of a foreign power. The minister was speaking in the assembly on the report of the privileges committee which recommended the expulsion from the assembly

of former members Mr C.D. Molapo and Mr Poko Chaulane. The report follows an inquiry by the privileges committee into the circumstances of the formation of the Basotho Democratic Alliance, which was formed in Pretoria by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha.

Mr Sekhonyana said that after its hearing by the Assembly, the report should be sent to the director of public prosecutions for possible action by the state.

NAMIBIA

Criticism of SWAPO, Lusaka Pact Discussed

MB241240 Harare Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] These days our critics and adversaries are viciously emitting floods of accusations against SWAPO in a blatant and ridiculous way. They claim that SWAPO, with its military activities inside Namibia, is threatening and jeopardizing a so-called peace initiative which carries the approval of all states in southern Africa and the entire Western world. The background against which these accusations and blackmail are posed is the Lusaka Accord of 16 February 1984, in terms of which cessation of hostilities between Angola and racist South Africa has been reached. Consequent upon the Lusaka meeting (?is) the creation of a South African-Angolan Joint Monitoring Commission to supervise racist South Africa's unilateral disengagement process of her troops from Angola, a bilateral issue of the sovereignty of states it seemed.

Noteworthy is the fact that the Lusaka meeting was itself a (?consequence) of many other meetings held since 1982 on the Cape Verde Islands between racist South African and Angolan representatives. It is to be recalled that during such meetings, the Angolans have been demanding that (?at any cost) South Africa must cease her aggression against Angola and immediately and unconditionally withdraw her troops from occupied territories of Angola, speedily implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 for Namibia's independence, and cease her logistical and material support to UNITA bandits.

It must be admitted that the Lusaka Accord satisfies only the first demand. Oddly enough the world is being driven to unduly optimistic conclusions by the regime which behaves as if the Lusaka Accord were already the implementation of Resolution 435. In their (?excessive] practice of twisting facts, the racists are referring to SWAPO's military activities in the Namibian territory as a so-called violation of a cease-fire. In order to incite the Angolan Government against SWAPO, the racist regime deliberately invented stories of so-called SWAPO guerrillas walking into Namibia from Angola, so-called in breach of Angolan instructions. (?Phrases) such as so-called SWAPO is ignoring the wishes of the Angolan people or so-called SWAPO is jeopardizing peace and stability in Angola are frequently used for the sake of driving a wedge between SWAPO and its allies, particularly the People's Republic of Angola.

The basis of all this verbiage and phrase-mongering is the Lusaka Accord, according to which racist South Africa wants to make believe Angola would so-called restrict SWAPO's action. But this is an over [word indistinct] of the Lusaka Accord. According to Angola's interior minister, Comrade Alexandre Rodrigues, Kito, Angola will restrict SWAPO movement so called only on the Angolan territory on condition that the immediate next step would be the implementation of Resolution 435, which foresees a cease-fire between the warring parties. Given this, it is self-evident that the hue and cry raised by the Pretoria minority regime about SWAPO's action in Namibia is an unjustifiable misrepresentation of the Lusaka Accord for as the president of SWAPO, Comrade Dr Sam Nujoma, put it [quote]: There is no cease-fire. The war will continue until there is a cease-fire between South Africa and SWAPO, unquote.

The fact is to mention that, instead of addressing ourselves to the concrete problem of signing a cease-fire as called for by SWAPO, instead of showing her sincerity by announcing the type of the electoral system, apartheid South Africa continues with the practices that point at nothing but her arrogance, (?consistence) and attempts at bypassing any contact with SWAPO in as far as the signing of a cease-fire is concerned. In order to complicate issues, the racist regime is (?breeding a so) totally unacceptable (?course) for a so-called conference of interested parties to the Namibian conflict, the attendants of which were identified as the racist regime itself, the Angolan Government, SWAPO, Pretoria's so-called administrator-general in Namibia, the puppets of the Multiparty Conference, and the UNITA bandits. As everybody would agree with us that only South Africa and SWAPO are fully fledged to play a significant role in negotiating for a cease-fire, which is a passport to the implementation of Resolution 435, during which all Namibian political parties will be treated on an equal footing, and from the logical point of view, it is utterly ridiculous to involve the Angolan Government and UNITA bandits in the negotiations for a cease-fire in Namibia.

Pretoria's latest attitude of wanting to ignore SWAPO only indicates the fact that the regime is trying to exploit the situation resulting from the Lusaka Accord by bypassing the implementation of UN Resolution 435, which calls for an internationally acceptable settlement for Namibia. Additionally, Pretoria's reluctance to implement Resolution 435 is being reflected by its revival of the already rejected so-called linkage and by its insistence on finding a new formula for Namibia's independence. According to information reaching us, Pretoria is seeking to disturb future independent Namibian foreign policy by retaining sufficient leverage over its government in an attempt to enforce a ban on the ANC using Namibia as a base for military activities. We understand that proposals for the neutrality of an independent Namibia along the lines of the nonaggression pacts (?forged) by South Africa with its neighbors are being drafted for inclusion in any settlement, writes *AFRICAN CONFIDENTAL* of 15 February 1984. This state of affairs sufficiently indicates a stalemate with the racists (?wringing) the situation in their own neocolonial interest. The guarantees for which Angola would restrict SWAPO and the smug optimism that South Africa is falsely fostering are all vanishing into thin air and it is not SWAPO who is responsible for this but the racist hypocrites in Pretoria. Independence or death, we shall win.

SOUTH AFRICA

Elections Violence 'Onslaught Against Democracy'

MB250631 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The campaign of violence that has been launched to disrupt the introduction of the country's new parliamentary system is a blatant onslaught on democratic principles and procedures. No amount of rationalizing by spokesmen for boycott groups can disguise that, nor can soft pedaling explain the paradox that groups that are ostensibly working for democracy in South Africa engage readily in violence against their own people as soon as it appears that by and large the people exercising democratic rights have chosen a different course from theirs.

The campaign is clearly aimed at silencing political leaders who advocate participation in the tricameral parliament and at intimidating voters who are disposed to agree with them. So far it has taken the forms of violent disruption of political meetings and, recently, petrol bomb attacks on the houses of parliamentary candidates. But it will almost certainly not end there. As the time draws near for the elections to the Colored and Indian houses in the new parliament, the faceless organization behind those acts will resort to more desperate measures.

It is imperative, therefore, that the police should do everything in their power to flush out the political thugs and bring them to book. Just as important, the country as a whole, and the Colored and Indian communities in particular, have a right to know precisely where the organizations that are propagating a boycott of the elections stand on the intimidation campaign. For what is at issue is not just political violence. It is the attitude of all factions in the political arena to the democratic process itself.

The campaign is obviously a response to what its backers perceive to be a growing mood of support for representation in the new parliament, and the purpose is to thwart the will of the majority on this question. This next step in South Africa's peaceful constitutional evolution in the continuos process of broadening democracy in the country cannot be allowed to succeed. The tactics are hardly any different from those of the ANC-South African Communist Party alliance, and they are pursued for the same reason: not to build democracy, but to negate it in promoting the political objectives of the perpetrators.

Those groups that are conducting their own campaigns to persuade people to boycott the elections next month state that they are doing so in the name of democracy. Some, by their involvement in the disruption of public political meetings, have already raised questions about that commitment. They are under an obligation to the people on whose behalf they claim to be campaigning to state unequivocally their opposition to violence and intimidation in politics, not least when it is directed against those very people.

One way or another, those who are behind the violence must be in no doubt that they will not be allowed to succeed. The process of peaceful constitutional evolution will continue.

Johannesburg STAR To Begin Sunday Edition

MB241533 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Johannesburg afternoon newspaper, *THE STAR*, is to produce a Sunday edition from 30 September, the Argus Group announced today. The chairman of the Argus Group, Mr (Layton Slater), told the South African Broadcasting Corporation that there is a need to establish a Sunday edition of *THE STAR* for strong economic and market reasons. Mr (Slater) said *THE STAR* needed to build and extend its base and that an analysis of the market had suggested a Sunday edition would be welcomed by existing readers of *THE STAR*.. The South African Associated Newspapers Group announced last night that a new *SUNDAY EXPRESS* would be launched on 5 August.

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Addresses National Convention

MB231616 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0745 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Address by President Kenneth Kaunda at the opening of the Third National Convention held at Mulungushi Hall, Lusaka — live]

[Excerpts] Comrade Chairman, Comrades in leadership over the party of the nation, Your Excellencies, Comrades, Brothers and Sisters: In the name of the Almighty God I welcome you all at this Third National Convention. Fifteen years ago we met in the last national convention of hope for the future as our young nation. That meeting was historical. That meeting was a landmark which had brought together men and women from all walks of life and together we addressed the vital issues of the economic future of our country. Because we were united in our aspirations, we achieved a lot. We succeeded also because of our unbounded optimism and our determination to shape a tangible and worthwhile future for our children. True, the auspicious economic climate helped us to succeed, but basically it was this unity and this confidence in ourselves and in our ability to order our society in accordance with our hopes and aspirations that determined the success of that convention. That unity, that confidence in ourselves, also fortified us to the tasks that followed. Those tasks were many and varied. They came to constitute the most ambitious and most difficult agenda that a young nation could set itself. That agenda did not only involve large energy schemes, it also involved vast transportation and communications systems.

It also involved microwave links from Lusaka to Chipata, to Kasama and Nakonde, to Mongu, to the Zaire border, to Zimbabwe and the replacement of the old microwave system with a new one in the copperbelt. Indeed, the agenda involved the installation of modern telephone exchanges and cable network within towns, a modern telex exchange, the (Mombeshi) satellite station, and television coverage for most of Zambia except the

Northwestern and Luapula Provinces. Then there was a national airline and an independent and greatly enlarged national railway system and an international railway system, Tazara.

Comrade Chairman, Comrades, Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters, that agenda also involved hundreds of new schools and teachers' houses, the University of Zambia, and other institutions of higher learning. For example, primary school enrollment, which had stood at 380,000 pupils at independence, rose to 1,138,000 by 1983. The number of primary schools rose from 1,852 to 2,815, while secondary schools enrollment rose from 14,007 to 115,000 also in 1983. Today the annual output of primary school teachers is more than three times that at independence, and the University of Zambia has awarded no less than 7,000 certificates to graduates at every level of higher learning since its inception.

Yes, development in the health services has been staggering and today the rural population of our people is within easy reach of modern hospitals, clinics, and health centers. The total number of hospitals in 1964 was 48. By 1980 it had risen to 81, while the number of health centers rose from 305 to 721, a more than 100-percent increase. The total number of hospital beds rose from 7,710 to 14,877 and to date the health centers increased from 3,140 to 5,630.

And what of industry? Here vast strides have also been made to build an industrial base which is strong and diversified and which is today one of the largest in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of its contributions to the national gross domestic product. All this would not have been possible without the party's decision to give direction to the economy through state participation. As a result of that participation, we were able to accelerate the indigenization of skills. We also addressed ourselves to the problems of the improvement of the quality of life of the people. The best illustrations of this were not just the free education and health system, but also the vast sums of money which we devoted to subsidizing essential food items and which we still continue to (?spend).

Between 1973 and 1984, for example, the party and its government had devoted no less than 976 million kwacha to the subsidization of essential food items, including corn meal; fertilizers; and other requisites. Because of these subsidies the prices of the commodities in question have been held down. Most important of all, the agenda involved the reorientation of our society along the firm ideological lines of humanism, with its emphasis on the centrality of man. That ideology is what sustains us today in the economic and in the political field. It is our guiding star. It guides our efforts on exploitative international capital, with its offshoots of imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, fascism, racism, and apartheid. Humanism imparts a unique pragmatism to our fight against poverty with its offshoots of hunger, ignorance, disease, crime, corruption and, above all, exploitation of man by man.

Comrade Chairman, judged by all the five areas of human endeavour, Zambia can today be justly proud of its achievements, that is, politically, economically, socially, and culturally, defense, and security-wise we have done very well. We owe this to the resources that we have had at our disposal but, above all, we owe it to ourselves. Here is peace in Zambia. That, too, is owed to us, and the love that we have fostered among each other through humanism. So today, as we meet here in circumstances so very different from those 1969, circumstances in which we can no longer move forward at the pace we have moved in the past, let us not forget the resolve, the boundless optimism, which marked our last two conventions.

We shall need that resolve. We shall need that faith and confidence in ourselves even more than ever before. Today our path is strewn with more obstacles than ever before, obstacles that before many hope to uproot at a time when we seemed to lack [words indistinct]. In this respect, let me say that there is no mystery about the nature of these problems. They are not political, social, and cultural, or scientific and technological, or defense and security. They are economic. But just as political problems can undermine political and social stability, so also will economic problems wreck peace and stability unless they are resolved. That is why the theme of this convention must relate to the national economy.

Comrade Chairman, the first task of this convention is to cause economic problems to be understood by everyone here. The majority of us here are laymen, but whether we are laymen or experts, the (?role) of capital, of economic stagnation, affects us all. This being so, we must also participate in their solution. Conventioneers are, therefore, being invited to tender their advice to the policy-making institutions laid by the general conference of the party. In doing so, they should not feel inhibited in any way. On the contrary, they should feel free to comment and advise on policy as well as execution or implementation.

Comrade Chairman, Comrades, Excellencies, Brothers, and Sisters, 10 years ago dramatic changes began to affect the world economy. The result of those changes was one of the most prolonged recessions on record. At that time few could have foreseen how serious, how protracted and widespread that recession was to be. The recession affected all countries, but has affected Zambia in particular more savagely and more viciously that many other developing nations. Now, what were the consequences of this recession? Internationally, leading economies failed to adjust to the higher energy costs (?brought forth) as a result of sharp increases in manufacturing costs and (?restrained) borrowing. As these prices rose [words indistinct] high prices of finished goods built up pressure for higher wages. This in turn resulted in higher production costs, low consumption of those high-cost products, and therefore in a number of companies either closing down or going into liquidation. The resulting closure of industries gave companies no choice, and, naturally, gave rise to a serious and worldwide employment situation as the numbers of unemployed people everywhere began to rise.

This increase in the numbers of the unemployed also meant that there were fewer and fewer people able to buy goods produced. The rise in the price of consumer goods the world over affected developing countries more, because the prices of their imports from the developed world rose even more. By buying from the developed countries they found themselves importing more inflation in addition to the inflation in their own countries.

Comrade Chairman, we could go on unraveling this vicious circle without getting anywhere. But what were the consequences of

this world situation for Zambia? The reduction in international industrial activity resulted in a fall in the demand for copper. The automobile and construction industries are among the major users of copper. As a result of the slump in these industries, demand for copper fell sharply. The price of copper has remained depressed over the last 10 years, with the exception of temporary upsurges in 1979, in 1980, and the early part of 1984.

It should be pointed out that the price of copper has remained depressed not only because of the worldwide recession, which has cut consumption power all around, but also because there has been a structural shift in the copper market, brought about by technological advance. Less copper is being used in industry. For example, the use of satellite and microwave systems for communication has rendered unnecessary the use of long copper cables. In other areas, copper is being used more efficiently, and therefore less of it is wanted. Moreover, the higher efficiency of fiber glass is depressing the copper market and creating excess supplies.

All these technological advances cannot be reversed, even by vigorous "buy copper" campaigns, because demand reduced, copper prices fell, and fell sharply over the period. This, Countrymen, Comrades, Brothers and Sisters, all this affected our economy adversely. Before the collapse of the copper market, we were able to do many things to develop Zambia. This was in spite of the fact that within a year of our attaining independence, we were embroiled in a political confrontation of economic attrition with rebel Ian Smith and his Rhodesia, which eventually erupted into open war between the freedom fighters and Smith's minority regime. The cost to Zambia of this confrontation was immeasurable.

Comrade Chairman, to protect the country against irrepairable damage, we had to undertake a massive rerouting exercise. We had to build the Zambia-Tanzania road, and establish the Zambia-Tanzania Road Services to operate on it. We had also to establish the Uhuru railway, Tazara. We had to lay down in record time the Tanzania-Zambia oil pipeline, and build the Indeni refinery at Ndola. Such was the resiliance of our economy that we, with the aid of friends who came to our rescue, we were able to withstand the strain and achieve what I have just catalogued. But, that economy was only resilient as long as the copper market held well. So, when that market collapsed in 1977, as I have already stated, we were really hit hard. We were hit hardest because, unlike other countries, we depend on copper for over 90 percent of our foreign exchange earnings. This constitutes one of the highest levels of dependence of any country on any one commodity.

Comrade Chairman, Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters, the fall in the price of copper, severe though its impact is, is only one side of the coin. The other side is that as a result of international inflation, the prices of imported goods, and therefore also of locally manufactured goods, rose sharply. The whole extent of the crushing pressure on our economy can only be grasped when we look at both these sides. Anyone who runs a household budget knows that it is not only the amount that is coming in that is important. Equally important is the amount that has to be paid out. If the amount coming in is going down while what is being paid out for goods is going up, then there is trouble. The household cannot continue for very long without making an adjustment in its lifestyle. The case of the nation is no different. Given a much lower export earning and a much higher import bill, a big squeeze was inevitable. Our initial reaction to this bloody squeeze was, like that of many other countries, to carry on as before, namely, keep importing as before and hope for the best, that in the meantime, the price of copper will have recovered, and there will be more foreign exchange.

But as the two-sided pincer movement continued, with no sign of drastic reverse, it became clear to the party and its government that this was indeed a harch reality that had to be confronted. Contrary to the optimistic predictions of certain experts and pseudo-experts, the price of copper did not recover. In the end we found ourselves with a lot of bills to pay for imports, but with no wherewithal to pay. So we had no alternative but to cut back on imports towards the level that could be financed by our own limited earnings of foreign exchange. Because we were able to import so little compared to 10 years ago, [word indistinct] and other maintenance equipment have become very scarce. As the capacity in our industries has increased substantially, our hospitals are short of (?blood). School children cannot get many of the books they so badly need. Our mines — the mainstay of our economy — lack adequate equipment to maintain production. Our roads cannot be properly maintained.

Now, this is a more recent and most unpleasant thing. But, I am afraid there is more to come. The result of industry operating below capacity is that less goods are made and therefore sold. If less goods are sold, then we exercise revenue [words indistinct] and this affects the public budget adversely. In addition to the excized revenue, government taxes the profits of companies. So it is important to government revenue that all our companies operate viably and make profits. This retaxation contributes to government revenue. When they do not, these revenues are reduced. The drastic reduction in imports because of the reduced foreign exchange resulted in the loss of revenue to government in another but more direct way. The government imposes a tax on every commodity imported into Zambia. This customs duty is usually a percentage of the total value of the imports. Clearly, if imports reduce, there will be less revenue collected in this way by the government, and this is precisely the case today. The reduction in imports for manufactures also meant an increase in unemployment, as the companies dependent on these imports shed workers to adjust to the reduced operations or close down completely. Thus it is that the economic recession which began in Europe and America and other places became through downward effect on copper prices an economic reality in Zambia.

In an effort to hold down the cost of living, we intensified price control. We allowed wages to rise, and subsidies to increase. To retain a viable level of imports, we borrowed abroad and this borrowing helped to sustain some consumption and some investment and therefore employment. Over a time, and as the low copper prices persisted, these well-meaning policies proved unworkable, and even ineffective, in the objective of protecting the people from the economic hardship.

Of the 9 million hectares of high-potential arable land, only 1.5 million, or 15 percent, is currently cultivated. The climate is favorable for the growing of many crops — in fact, many more

crops than we were led to believe before independence. Our rivers and underground water resources provide an opportunity for the development of comprehensive irrigation schemes countrywide. Virtually the whole country is ideal grazing land for cattle and other livestock. The potential for the development of fisheries in our rivers and lakes is considerable. Our commercial farmers have always been a dynamic force of agricultural growth. Increasingly our (?native) farmers are expanding at high rates their production for the markets. We have a large traditional section of about 600,000 peasant farmers, most of whom only produce enough to feed themselves and their families and represent a large resource which can be mobilized to increase agricultural production to feed the rest of the nation and for export.

Experts have conceded that conditions in Zambia are favorable for the expansion of not only beef but also coffee, soybeans, tobacco, groundnuts, and many other commodities. Our peasant farmers in particular offer the best prospects for efficient agricultural production if they used very little imported inputs. They have very little foreign exchange to grow crops yet.

Comrade Chairman, Comrades, Countrymen, Brothers and Sisters, we have the capacity to (?rally) around not only in the agricultural field but also in the industrial sector. Over the last 20 years we have established a large and diversified industrial base capable of producing not only consumer goods, but also intermediate and capital goods. Currently most of these capacities remain grossly underutilized but can be brought into production with relatively little additional investment.

As compared to most of the neighboring countries, our industrial base places us in good stead to take advantage of the export opportunities arising in the Preferential Trade Area and Southern African Development Coordination Conference region. The scope for the early reduction of the dependence on imported inputs — and hence foreign exchange — by many industries is very large, given the high agricultural promise.

The institution and subsequent reorganization and strengthening of the Zambia Industrial Mining Corporation group of companies have provided the industrial and commercial sector with the much-needed leadership. Our game parks, the Victoria Falls, and other tourist attractions, combined with the excellent climate offer the potential for developing (?tourism) sector as a source of foreign exchange.

Comrade Chairman, turning to the infrastructure, here too we have great strength. The large network of transport and communications infrastructure provides an excellent basis for developing the production sectors. Most of our production centers are now within easy reach of major transport arteries. As a result of regional (?impetus), we have, [word indistinct] transportation and communications sector is becoming part and parcel of the regional network which will facilitate foreign trade.

Comrade Chairman, Brothers and Sisters, Countrymen, Excellencies, the party and its government have successfully negotiated agreements with the IMF and the Paris Club. The agreement with the IMF is for Special Drawing Rights, SDRs, 225 million — that is, 210 million kwacha. As for the Paris Club, the agreement is for debt relief on our financial obligations falling due in 1984 and payable to OECD governments. Additionally, as I announced at my last press conference, we successfully concluded consecutive (?global) discussions for more aid from the OECD governments and interanational financial organizations. All these endeavors were necessary in view of the country's critical foreign exchange situation. Our foreign exchange earnings remain critically low, and insufficient to cover debt service and interest. Unfortunately, even with the successful rescheduling of debts, we can afford only a substantially reduced level of imports.

Comrade Chairman, a word about debt and monetary resources. Many of you may have been shocked to hear that today we owe as much as $4.5 billion. This, however, should not surprise those of you who have been following the sorry (?tale) of the growing debt problem of the developing countries as a whole. In our case, when we realized, as I mentioned earlier, that in 1982 alone the fall in copper prices meant that we lost as much as $1 billion in export earnings, you will agree that, unless we were to allow our economy to grind to a halt, we had no choice but to borrow abroad to finance investment. However, every kwacha we borrow abroad today must be repaid by us and our children tomorrow. It is for that reason that I have stressed the importance of ensuring the proper control over the preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the projects and programs we are financing with external aid. Our record in this area must be improved. We should be prepared to make whatever institutional changes are required to improve upon the effectiveness of external aid, and to ensure that the programs and projects that we undertake are consistent with the priorities of the day.

Comrades, Countrymen, Excellencies, Brothers and Sisters, finally, in the foregoing remarks I have tried to discuss with you some of the issues in our economic development. I hope that I have succeeded in conveying the fact that the party's objectives for economic development remain the betterment of each and every individual of our society. I hope I have also shown that the party has continued to keep under constant review the various strategies designed to achieve these objectives and that where the effect of any one strategy is at variance with the ultimate good of the economy, it has not hesitated to review the strategy. I have given the example of subsidies which have had to be reduced because their continuation at maximum levels was not in the real and genuine interests of the economy. This does not mean, however, that the party has turned against its people. It means that the party has decided that the ultimate strength of the individual lies in a strengthened economy, and not in an economy that continues to be devoted to the subsidization of consumption.

Comrade Chairman, throughout my speech I have underlined our determination to tackle with courage the problems of the economy. There is nowhere where I have spoken as though I was [word indistinct] the epitaph for a diseased economy. This is because together with all of you, I share in [word indistinct] the pride and conviction that if economy has not only got a rich (?part) full of exciting and unmatched challenges, but also it has an abundant and (?royal) future. The greatest exploits of the past which I have referred to in this address are still repeatable and even surpassable in the future. But for that to happen it is not only courage or determination to persevere that will be required,

of us. It is also the understanding why the pleasures and soft options of the present have to be foregone in favor of a firmer future.

That firmer and brighter future will not be and can never be, so long as this economy continues to rely on copper as the mainstay of its foreign exchange receipts. The days of high copper prices are gone, and gone for good. The days of low foreign exchange costs of producing a ton of copper are also gone, and gone for good. This being the case, there is a need for us to confer together in this convention. For my part, I see the future clearly and strongly, even though it is through the mist of the present. For all of us that mist is the [word indistinct] of the clear understanding that this convention will be (?solved).

I pray the good Lord to give us courage to acknowledge our weaknesses and to give us reason to recognize the truth and, having recognized that truth, oral power to get committed to it through thick and thin. I pray that we will emerge from here a nation poised anew and ready for the decisive blow against poverty. It is now my great pleasure to declare this Third National Convention open. I thank you all. [applause]

ZIMBABWE

State of Emergency Extended for 6 Months

MB241657 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The state emergency has been renewed for another 6 months. The speaker of Parliament, Comrade Didymus Mutasa, announced this in Parliament today after 62 members had voted for its extension, while only 15 voted against. Among those who voted for the extension were seven independent members of Parliament and two from ZAPU. Five members of the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe, formerly known as the Republican Front, and 10 ZAPU Members of Parliament voted against the extension of the emergency.

Mozambican Refugees Arrive at Nyamombe Camp

MB250707 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] More than 1,000 displaced Mozambicans have arrived at the new camp at Nyamombe in the Inyanga District, and about 3,000 more are expected to arrive soon. *THE HERALD* reports that the majority of them came from a transit camp in Mutoko, and the remainder from parts of Nyanga district. The UNHCR is supplying food. Christian Care, the Red Cross, and other donor organizations have also donated food and clothes.

Cuban Envoy Comments on Namibia Independence

MB241847 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] The Cuban ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Alfonso Fraga, says the Namibian independence problem can be resolved through implementation of UN Resolution 435 which calls for the holding of UN-supervized elections in Namibia, preceded by a cease-fire. Speaking at a news conference in Harare to mark the 31st anniversary of the Cuban National Armed Struggle Day, Comrade Fraga reiterated his country's condemnation of South Africa's apartheid policy. He urged the Botha regime to give power to the masses in South Africa and Namibia. Comrade Fraga stated that Cuba also condemned Zionist Israel for occupying Palestinian land.

FAO Regional Conference Continues in Harare

Official Reports Bumper Export Crops

MB250659 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Zimbabwe has had a record harvest of the export crops of tobacco, cotton, and soya beans despite the drought which has forced the government to import 400,000 tons of corn. This was revealed by the deputy minister of agriculture, Comrade Swithun Mombeshora, when he addressed the FAO conference in Harare yesterday.

Comrade Mombeshora pointed out that the record export crops were due to greater areas being planted, and in the case of tobacco, the country's largest earner of foreign currency, there were higher yields of good quality crops. The deputy minister noted that there has been an appreciable increase in cotton production by small-scale farmers, which will account for more than 30 percent of the total 1983-1984 crop.

Comrade Mombeshora added that his ministry recently introduced a national small-scale irrigation fund for farmers in both the large and small-scale sectors to provide finance on attractive terms.

SWAPO Delegate Addresses Conference

MB250711 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The (?fifth) agricultural coordinator for SWAPO, Comrade (Busho Mipotoka), yesterday addressed the FAO ministerial plenary session, which enters in third day today. Comrade (Mipotoka) said SWAPO has made agriculture and food production a priority in its program for national reconstruction after independence. He criticized the Pretoria regime for portraying Namibia as a country without sound agricultural potential, and pointed out that analysis has shown that only the northern and central parts of the country are capable of producing more than sufficient food for the entire Namibian population.

Botswana Official Speaks

MB251015 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
0510 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] The assistant minister of agriculture, Mr Gaotlhaetse Mathabaphiri, told the 13th FAO regional conference in Harare yesterday that the persistent drought in southern Africa has meant the diversion of the scarce resources to finance food

imports for drought relief programs. Mr Mathabaphiri said that this also included the food [word indistinct] problems prevalent in the region.

He suggested that the development of irrigation be carried out side by side with agriculture to ensure that food production was assured even during years of adversity. However, Mr Mathabaphiri pointed out that there were numerous problems in the implementation of irrigation projects, which included the shortage of trained manpower and experiences state in this field and lack of input. He requested the FAO to provide assistance in the training of engineers and also called for an exchange of information and experience among the countries of the region.

The assistant minister further said that the plague of animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease and rinderpest exacerbated the food security problems of the region. He welcomed the initiatives by the FAO to promote the development of irrigation in Africa and the proposed implementation of the Pan African rinderpest eradication campaign, which feature prominently in the agenda of the conference.

Mr Mathabaphiri called on African countries to work together and, with the assistance of FAO through various regional groupings, to appeal to the international community to assist in the fight against hunger and deprivation in the region.